



## SDG Discussion Guide

### "Good News Wins Friends"

Romans 16

May 14, 2017

Opener:

Describe a close friend of yours -- what about him or her galvanized you both in such a friendship?

What "old friends" do you keep in contact with? What keeps you coming back to the friendship?

Text Interaction:

1. What kinds of things does Paul commend about the persons in the passage?

What does the commendation say about what Paul values in these people?

2. From the way you see it, how close did Paul let people get to him?

How close do you let people get to you? Or, what is your experience with vulnerability in relationships?

3. What does this passage show you about Paul's perception of the church at Rome?

4. From what we know about Paul and the Romans, how might the people in the passage have "risked their lives," "worked very hard" and "been a great help" to Paul and others?

5. Who from your life springs to mind when you think of a model servant of Christ? What impresses you about this person?

6. In what fresh and inspiring ways can we share our blessings and greetings with other Christians? Share your ideas with those in your group.

Pray with and for one another. As you pray, ask God to highlight to you some qualities in your group-member friends. Pay attention to how God might be speaking to you. And then, either in the actual prayer time or after it, share with anyone in your group what God showed you. Encourage one another in the ways God shows you that he has been encouraged by you all. Launch forth into the rest of your week having been refreshed by the Holy Spirit -- through the company of special Christian friends.

\*These questions were adapted from *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity, 1996) and *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).