



## SDG Discussion Guide

Romans 12:9-21

September 2, 2018

For starters:

As a young person, who was the troublemaker in your family and why? Who was the peacemaker and why?

What was one thing about which your parents or older friends used to say, "Wait until you're older, you'll understand then"?

What signs of aging or weathering are you starting to feel in your bones?

Interaction with the text: The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.

As you can, read aloud the passages in your group; read them aloud a second time but from a different Bible translation (eg, read from the Message after first reading from the NIV). Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. Which command from this passage do you find particularly helpful to you right now?
2. In the first part of this passage (vv 9-13), how does love operate within the family of faith?
3. In the second part of the passage (vv 14-21), how does love respond to those who are outside - maybe even hostile toward - the family of faith?
4. Of the commands listed in these verses, which two are the easiest for you to keep? Which two are the most difficult?
5. Is loving your enemies: a) nice, but unrealistic; b) for Jesus and apostle types only; or c) a result of following Christ? How is the Spirit helping you to love?
6. What relationship in your life most needs the lesson of loving your enemy? Take a moment in silence to ask for God's forgiveness, understanding, patience and power for the relationship.
7. As you have aged and experienced more of life, how has your sensitivity to the consciences of other Christians changed? Where do you draw the line of trying to please everyone? Where do you draw the line in trying to please yourself?
8. What does it look like to practice hospitality in your environments? What does it look like to receive it?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to continue to speak to you from his word in this passage. Continue to thank God for those who have given of themselves to love you. Thank God for the opportunities to give of yourself to love another. Pray that you may realize more fully God's promise to avenge the wrongs and injustices of this world. How might your outlook for tomorrow and this week be if you were certain of that promise? In light of this truth, what would it look like for you to practice hospitality?

\*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).