

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

July 5, 2020

BEING THE CHURCH
Part 2: You've Got a Friend in Me
Romans 12:9-18
Pastor Chris Amdahl
Chris.Amdahl@crossroadsabc.com



NOTES

Looking back at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time, stuck with you, challenged or confused you?

What is the one important thing you will take away from this weekend's message or our community group discussion? Is there any challenge, difficulty or praise that you would like to share with the group for prayer?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Open with prayer. (2-5 min)
2. Share your story ... *Talk about your best friend when you were growing up. What was special about this person?* (7-10 min)
3. Read Romans 12:9-18.
4. Discuss these questions with your group. (20-45 min)

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (Romans 12:9-13)

What does love that is *not genuine* look like?

Give some specific (creative) ways to live out these admonitions in your friendships.

When you're doing this, why is it important to focus on what's meaningful to *your friend* (and not necessarily to you)?

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. (vs. 14-18)

What do all these commands have in common when it comes to resolving conflict with our friends?

What is your natural conflict-resolution style: *Accommodating, Avoiding, Compromising, Competing, or Collaborating*? Give an example of how your approach to conflict played itself out recently.

PLAN OF ACTION

Pick one of Paul's admonitions in Romans 12:9-18, and apply it to one of your friendships this week—especially one that might need some attention.

If you have long-standing conflict with a friend, take the first step in attempting to resolve it.

Here's a good way to start that conversation: *"When you said, or did [fill-in-the-blank], it made an impact on me. Can you give me your perspective on what happened?"*



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