



## A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families

For the week of January 8, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

### Warm Up

- Think about Christians who have been a blessing to you over the course of your life. Can you name one or two, and why they made such an impression on you?

### Romans 16

### *Friends, Mission and Praise*

<sup>1</sup>I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, <sup>2</sup>that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.

<sup>3</sup>Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, <sup>4</sup>who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. <sup>5</sup>Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia. <sup>6</sup>Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you. <sup>7</sup>Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me. <sup>8</sup>Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. <sup>9</sup>Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. <sup>10</sup>Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus. <sup>11</sup>Greet my kinsman Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus. <sup>12</sup>Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well. <sup>14</sup>Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them. <sup>15</sup>Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. <sup>16</sup>Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

<sup>17</sup>I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. <sup>18</sup>For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. <sup>19</sup>For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. <sup>20</sup>The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

<sup>21</sup>Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen.

<sup>22</sup>I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord.

<sup>23</sup>Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you.

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

- **Beginning at the End.** We will begin our look at Paul's Letter to the Romans by reading the final chapter. Here, Paul greets members of the congregation by name, calls them to Gospel unity, and gives God the glory for His faithfulness to His Church.
- **Read Romans 16:1-16.** The congregation at Rome was diverse in race, class, and gender. Jew and gentile, slave and free, rich and poor, and male and female believers are recognized as integral to the church. What deeds and qualities are commended by Paul in these verses?
- **Read Romans 16:17-24.** Christian unity is precious and gift from God. In these verses, what does Paul identify as threatening to our unity? What strengthens our fellowship?
- **Read Romans 16:25-27.** Paul concludes his letter with a hymn of praise to God. What does Paul find praiseworthy about God? What does Paul's doxology teach us about the power of the Gospel?
- **Pray together.** Thank the Lord for His church, and for specific people. Pray for the peace and purity of His Church. Praise God for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



*To hear sermons and access past study guides visit [www.wepc.org/resources/sermons-media-study-guide](http://www.wepc.org/resources/sermons-media-study-guide)  
Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, [kevin@wepc.org](mailto:kevin@wepc.org)*