



**Ice breaker:** When you think about “Discovering God’s Plan for the Rest of Your Life,” what’s the *first* kind of decision that usually comes to mind for you (relationships, career, finances, future plans, etc.)? Share about a time of discernment in this area.

### **Read and Reflect on Romans 12:1-10:**

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. <sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

### **Sermon and Scripture Application Discussion:**

#### BE — Surrender & Transformation

1. Romans 12:1 describes offering our lives as a “living sacrifice.” Pastor Philip reminded us that Jesus died as a sacrifice for us, now we are a living sacrifice for Him. What makes surrender to God difficult *in everyday, ongoing, daily life*, not just in theory?
2. “*I’m willing to give myself completely to God if I like the outcome.*” Where do you most notice that tension in your life right now?
3. Romans 12:2 talks about being transformed by the renewing of our minds. What’s one pattern of thinking shaped more by the world than by Scripture that God may want to renew in you? (These examples were shared: I’m only as good as what I do and accomplish, leading to perfectionism or workaholism. I must have people’s love and approval. I must succeed to be loved. Things must get bad to get better.)
4. Romans 12:3 calls us to “think of ourselves with sober judgment.” What most often defines the way you see yourself—your achievements, failures, roles, possessions, or something else—and how does the gospel challenge or reshape that view?

#### BELONG — Family, Not Consumers

5. The image of *grapes vs. marbles* highlights interdependence while being connected to the Vine, Jesus. In what ways have you experienced the church as a family rather than just a place you attend? Are there ways you are tempted to fall into the consumer (visitor) mindset?

## Community Group Sermon Notes January 4, 2026

Family & Discipleship Pastor, Philip Griffin

Series: *Out of the Pew and Into the Purpose*

Sermon Title: Discovering God's Plan for the Rest of My Life – *Romans 12:1-10*

Big Idea: God wants the same thing for all of us. He wants us to **BE**, **BELONG**, and **BECOME**.

Spring Term – Week 1 of 20



6. Reflect on Romans 12:4-5. *Now a servant has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.* (John 8:35) In healthy families, we don't wear a mask or pretend, the guard is down and we are truly ourselves. We are more open with family because we don't fear rejection. God says, I'm adopting you into my family - a permanent place – where you won't be rejected. So remove the mask, be real with each other. Speak truth to each other. Grow with each other. This is when the church is at its best! The Church is never referred to as a business – but a family. If businesses serve you, but families serve each other, how does that idea challenge the way you usually think about church involvement? (In his church, Christ gives each one of us gifts and responsibilities and asks us to live them out.)

### BECOME — Gifts & Love in Action

7. Romans 12:6-8 reminds us that every believer has spiritual gifts meant to build others up. What's one gift you think God may have given you, and how have you seen it impact others?
8. Verses 9–10 describe sincere love, devotion, and honoring others above ourselves. What might it look like to practice this kind of love *practically* within this group or your church family this month?

### **Closing Prayer (Read Together):**

#### **A Prayer of Surrender**

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,

Praised for you or criticized for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.

And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

You are mine, and I am yours.

So be it. Let this (commitment made) on earth also be made in heaven.

John Wesley 1755

### **Faith in Action:**

- January 9 H.O.P.E. for Wandering Ones, 7 PM, B216 Prayer Room
- January 11 GriefShare Launch, 10:30 AM, B201
- January 13 Adult Fellowship Luncheon, 12 PM, Gym
- January 18 Serve Fair, 10:15 AM & 11:45 AM, Lobby
- January 20 Alpha Launch Party, 6:30 PM, Welcome Center
- January 31 New Members Course, 8:30 AM, A106