

⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. ¹⁵ Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

— *Romans 12:9-18*

Discussion/Journal Questions

Share one of your favorite family movies. What makes this movie so memorable?

Have two or three people read Romans 12:9-18 out loud slowly. After a some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

Romans 12:9-10 tells us to show genuine love towards others, not pretend love. What does "pretend love" look like? How can we tell whether or not our love is genuine?

What does showing honor look like in our culture? Is our honor conditional or unconditional?

In the sermon, John asks, "Where might God be calling you to lead the way in loving where maybe no one else has gone?"

How does hope in the resurrection change how we relate to others?

Pastor John teaches us that blessing is a boundary removing act while cursing is a boundary defining act. Are you more known for blessing or for cursing in your relationships?

Are there any boundaries that you need to tear down by beginning to bless someone you are upset with? How can your group encourage or help you in this?