

SAC Small Groups Discussion Guide – May 25th, 2025

This guide comes with the expectation that even if someone has missed the Sunday service, they have watched the sermon before coming to their small group.

Fellowship Time

Make sure to have time where people can chat and catch up. This section could include a dinner together, having a potluck, preparing snacks, etc. The key to this section is make people feel welcomed and seen.

Read this Overview Aloud Together

This section contains a brief summary of the sermon that was preached on Sunday. It will have the main point explained as a way to help those remember the sermon. This is not an in-depth overview because the expectation is that everyone will take the time to listen to the sermon.

This week in our series, “Me to We”, we dove into the passage of Romans 12:1-21 as we explored Paul’s call to unity in the family of God. The early church in Rome faced a particularly unique situation with the Jewish Christians being forced out (noted in Acts 18:2) by Emperor Claudius, but after he passed the Jewish Christians started to come back into Rome. As a result of these seismic shifts in Rome, the church was facing significant theological and relational rifts that threatened the fabric of the church in Rome. Paul’s letter was a call to unity for the church in Rome and that call extends to us today.

The church needed to be reminded that they were one family of God with no hierarchal distinctions between Jews and Gentiles and that they needed a reorientation of their mind to the way that God saw all of them together. Our thoughts shape our actions, and by intentionally aligning our minds with God's truth, we can begin to live out His will in our daily lives. Paul calls the church to a posture of humility not thinking too highly of oneself, but instead to be sober minded as we consider the church as the body of Christ.

The image of the body illustrates the diversity in the church, but also the unity that is present in the picture of the body. There’s no room for comparison or competition in the body, but only room for mutual support and collaboration. Paul lists a number of ways that the body serves which can be summarized by love, humility, and service to the church and the world. Every single person who proclaims Jesus as Lord is part of the body and has a role in the function of the body.

Discussion Questions

These questions are prompts to help the group have meaningful dialogue over the sermon this past weekend. Do not feel the need to ask all these questions. You are more than welcome to create your own questions or mix the questions together.

- What challenges did the church face in regard to unity at the time of Paul's writing? Does the modern church today face similar challenges and what is different today?
- Paul uses imagery of the body to describe the church. How does this imagery help you understand your role within the church community?
- Go over the list of practical ways Paul lists for living in community (Rom. 12:9-21). Which of these do you find most challenging? Why?
- What spiritual gifts do you believe God has given you, and how are you currently using them to serve the church and broader community?

Reflect and Discuss the Practice and Prayer.

This is an opportunity for accountability and formation in your group. Accountability to ensure people are practicing the practices and formation because we believe that these practices will shape and form us into the people that God intended us to be. Take time to reflect on each person's experience of these practices.

Practice: What ministry opportunity is God inviting me to participate in?

1. Pray – Ask the Holy Spirit to give you prompts about where you should serve now and next year.
2. Explore – Take time to learn more about the ministries at Surrey Alliance. If you have questions, ask them. If you don't know your spiritual gifts, ask your small group which gifts they see being present in your life.
3. Act – Make a plan. If you're planning on serving now, write an email or text immediately. If you're planning on serving in the fall, contact the pastoral team or ministry lead to get started. Make sure to put the serving times on your calendar.

Prayer: Father God, we know that we are Your handiwork and that we have been created to do good works in Christ Jesus that You have already prepared for us. Holy Spirit, awaken our hearts so that we may know how we can continue to partner with God's work in Central Surrey. Help us to discover opportunities to serve and love our community. Equip us for Your good work. In Jesus' name, Amen!

End in Prayer

Take some time to pray with each other. This is not a time for gossip or to be cynical, this is an opportunity to share with each other our burdens, to celebrate and praise God together, and to pray expectantly that God would move.