

Leaders: You will notice there are more questions than average this week. By way of reminder, the goal is not to get through every question. Use your judgment to find the best questions for your group each week.

### **LEARN**

What stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday? What was most helpful, encouraging or challenging to your walk with Christ?

What are some common ways people define “worship”? According to Romans 12:1-2, how *should* you define worship?

(Often defined strictly as singing, or other “spiritual” things like prayer or Bible reading. Needs to be defined as the whole-life response to God’s mercy to live for his glory every day)

What is the significance of presenting our “body” to God? Why do you think Paul doesn’t just use “heart” or “self”?

(This is driving at the idea that our physical body, as well as our mind and heart, all needs to belong to God. Do not separate the spiritual from the physical. God demands our entire being belong to him.)

What do “the mercies of God” have to do with you presenting your body as a living sacrifice to God?

(We are *responding* to the mercies of God, not earning his mercies. We don’t first offer ourselves to God then get his mercy. “By” could also be “considering, or because of”)

### **PRACTICE**

“Be transformed” is a command yet it is a passive idea – God commands that we be transformed. How do we obey such a command?

(We obey this when we actively fight against being conformed to the sinful world around us, as well as by the renewal of our mind through things like reading the Word, prayer, corporate worship, and more. We must ask God to continually transform us into the image of Jesus by the power of the Spirit living in us.)

What does it look like, in real life, to present your body as a “living sacrifice”, holy and acceptable to God?

(At least part of the answer is v. 2 – It’s as if v. 2 answers this very question. Like Paul knows v. 1 is a bit abstract, so he answers it in v. 2)

What are ways you feel yourself pulled into conforming to the world? Or, what are some ways the world wants you to conform to its way of thinking and living?

### **CHANGE**

How is your personal worship going? What is one tangible, achievable way you will commit to worshipping God this week?

(Leaders: Sit on the first question, allowing members to reflect and share honestly. If the answer is “not good”, ask follow up questions. Ask the 2<sup>nd</sup> question in light of responses given. Don’t settle for quick “practical” solutions!)

Is there an area of your life you know you’re conforming to the world around you? What will it take to have your mind renewed and thus be transformed?

Spend time together in prayer praising God for his mercies in Christ and, in response, presenting your body to God as a living sacrifice for his glory.