



Our Transformed Life

Living the Vision of Romans 12

We all come into a new year hoping for positive change. We want to be better, we want our world to be better, we want to know God better. It's good to know that God wants those things too. He has a vision for our transformation and what better way to discover that than in His word. Through daily time in scripture we connect to God and grow deeper in our understanding and relationship. Our reading plan compliments all the teaching from Romans 12 with practical instructions and wisdom for how we can be transformed. It is all predicated on God's mercy, presence and power and spending time daily in God's word opens us up to allow God to do His work in us!

Reading

Join us for the next 12 weeks, Monday - Friday for our church-wide reading plan. Each passage compliments the passages from the previous Sunday's teaching from Romans 12 and helps us grow and transform together. Follow along here or on the Willowdale App.

Ask Yourself:

- What do I learn and love about God here?
- What does this passage make me wonder?
- How is this relevant to me today?
- What does this text call me to believe and do?

Week 1: Responding with our whole selves to God's amazing grace

Romans 12:1

From King David dancing in the presence of God to the apostle Paul's instruction on the inward practice of renewing our minds, the Bible details numerous responses to God's amazing work of salvation in our lives. In fact, the greatest commandment in all of Scripture is Christ Himself telling us to love/worship God with our entire beings. As you read this week, ask God to show you how He would have you respond to His amazing grace.

Jan. 11	Psalm 95 & 96
Jan. 12	Mark 12:28-31
Jan. 13	2 Samuel 6
Jan. 14	Psalm 100
Jan. 15	Hebrews 13:1-19

Week 2: Developing new patterns of thinking and feeling

Romans 12:2

Developing new patterns can sound daunting, but it does not need to be. Jesus said; "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Abiding is much like a process. It begins revealing truth to us that releases us from old ways of thinking to finding freedom in the ways of Christ. Let us put into practice these scriptures and allow God's truth to transform us.

Jan. 18	Ephesians 4:20-32
Jan. 19	Ephesians 5:1-20
Jan. 20	Colossians 3:1-17
Jan. 21	Philippians 4:4-9
Jan. 22	Galatians 5:16-24

For more information visit www.willowdalechapel.org/our-transformed-life

Week 3: Grasping our true identity by faith

Many of us try to find our identity in the wrong things. For some it's our jobs, and for others it's in our family, friends, or the opinions of others. Our identity should be pursued by faith and can only be found in Christ. So let's go before God, in all humility and prayer, asking Him to show us our true identity so that we can live into it and fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

Romans 12:3

Jan. 25 Genesis 32:22-32
Jan. 26 1 Peter 5:5-6
Jan. 27 Philippians 2:3-8
Jan. 28 Matthew 18:1-4
Jan. 29 Micah 6:8

Week 4: Offering ourselves to one another with our spiritual gifts

Spiritual gifts are just like they sound: gifts or supernatural abilities provided by the Holy Spirit to each Jesus-follower to serve the body of Christ. They are ultimately for the benefit of others and to glorify God, and we often receive joy when we use them. We pray God sheds light on your understanding of your own spiritual gifts as you explore the passages this week.

Romans 12:4-8

Feb. 1 1 Corinthians 12
Feb. 2 Matthew 20:25-28
Feb. 3 Ephesians 4:7-16
Feb. 4 Matthew 25:14-30
Feb. 5 Colossians 3:23-24
1 Peter 4:10-11

Week 5: Loving sincerely by hating sin

To love sincerely sounds simple, but we often find it difficult. The passages for this week will remind us of the passion and dedication it takes to love God and our neighbors with sincerity.

Romans 12:9

Feb. 8 Psalm 97:8-12
Feb. 9 Psalm 101:1-4
Feb. 10 1 Thessalonians 5:15-20
Feb. 11 John 13:34-35
Feb. 12 Ephesians 5:15-17

Week 6: Loving deeply by honoring others

We are called to love each other in the same way Christ loved us; no conditions, no expectations, no pre-requisites. Why is it so hard? Because we can't do it through human strength. We need the power of the Holy Spirit in us to love unconditionally. As we read this week, let's ask Jesus to open our hearts to love others more deeply and become more like him.

Romans 12:10

Feb. 15 Ephesians 4:1-3
Feb. 16 Colossians 3:12-17
Feb. 17 1 Peter 4:8-11
Feb. 18 Philippians 2:1-4
Feb. 19 1 John 3:16-18

Week 7: Loving zealously by keeping our fires stoked

When it comes to Christianity, we have a part to play. Don't get me wrong, it is by faith in Christ alone that we are saved, but we are invited into an active participatory relationship with Jesus. Dallas Willard sums it up best: "Grace isn't opposed to effort; it's opposed to earning."

Romans 12:11

Feb. 22 Joshua 24:1-28
Feb. 23 Acts 18:18-28
Feb. 24 1 Corinthians 15:35-58
Feb. 25 Galatians 6:1-10
Feb. 26 Colossians 4:2-6

Week 8: Praying our way to hope and patience

To say we have had a fair share of hardships this past year may be an understatement. For many, we may feel like discouragement is more a companion of ours than hope, patience or faithfulness. And yet God is still God. He is near to us in the midst of our every day. Do not give up seeking God in the hard while praying and waiting joyfully on the Lord.

Romans 12:12

Mar. 1	James 1:2-4
Mar. 2	Hebrews 4:16
Mar. 3	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Mar. 4	Psalms 33:18, 20-22
Mar. 5	Psalms 40

Week 9: Sharing our way to radical hospitality

Hospitality is the tangible act of putting into practice the love of Jesus. He showed His great love for us in His death and resurrection. Out of response to His great love, we are called to love others. Oftentimes this love for others comes in the practical doing and sharing of life together.

Romans 12:13

Mar. 8	Acts 2:22-47
Mar. 9	Genesis 18:1-15
Mar. 10	1 Peter 4:7-11 Acts 16:11-15, 40
Mar. 11	Luke 19:1-10
Mar. 12	Matthew 25:31-46 Hebrews 13:1-2

Week 10: Developing empathy and emotional intelligence

Jesus didn't give Lazarus' mourners the glance of disapproval or judgement. He didn't try to talk them out of their grief nor scold them for their lack of faith. Jesus saw people who were hurting and it made Him hurt too. He empathized so strongly with those who were mourning that, "Jesus wept."

Romans 12:15

Mar. 15	John 1:1-44
Mar. 16	1 John 4:7-21
Mar. 17	John 14:1-31
Mar. 18	Philippines 2:1-11
Mar. 19	James 3:13-18

Week 11: Living harmoniously with others, especially "the other"

Harmony is the beauty we experience when different sounds, colors, tastes—or people—blend and work together. Each piece "humbly" combines with the others, creating a rich fullness which exceeds the sum of the parts. This is God's supreme desire for the church.

Romans 12:16

Mar. 22	Proverbs 12:15-23 Proverbs 17:27-28
Mar. 23	Luke 18:9-17
Mar. 24	Ephesians 4:1-16
Mar. 25	1 Thessalonians 5:12-18
Mar. 26	James 2:1-13

Week 12: Overcoming evil with radical goodness

It is the nature of anger and violence to perpetuate themselves, not only by escalating a conflict, but by infecting even the victims who suffer. We're all tempted to give into hate and surrender to "the dark side." Thankfully, greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world!

Romans 12:14, 17-21

Mar. 29	Matthew 5:1-12
Mar. 30	2 Timothy 4:1-18
Mar. 31	James 1:19-27
Apr. 1	1 Peter 2:11-25; 4:12-19
Apr. 2	Psalms 3, Psalm 35