

## STUDY GUIDE

### NEW VISION

STUCK

WEEK 1: SERVE ONE ANOTHER

ROMANS 12:10; MARK 9:33-35

08/07/2016



#### MAIN POINT

We show honor and love when we take the back seat and consider the needs of others to be the real priority in life.

#### INTRODUCE

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*

**With which of the following roles in your family (homemaker, caretaker, provider, peacemaker, troublemaker) do you most closely identify?**

**In what ways are a human family and a church family the same? How are they different?**

**In what ways have members of your family placed your needs ahead of their own?**

No one likes to be around self-serving people. Yet if we are honest, most of us operate out of self-interest. We do what's best for us when it's convenient for us. Paul encouraged the members of the church at Rome to live in light of the gospel by radically putting others first. Jesus, although fully God, emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant as a man. Jesus humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death on a cross (Philippians 2:7-8). He placed you first and died in your place, taking on the punishment for your sin. Now, as a member of God's family, every believer can demonstrate a similar kind of service that places the needs of others ahead of his or her own. We show honor and love when we take the back seat and consider the needs of others to be the real priority in life.

#### READ & REFLECT

*Read the Scripture passages and use the questions and the commentary below to help explore the meaning of the text.*

**What did Jesus do for you personally?**

**How does understanding and appreciating what Jesus did for you motivate you to serve your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ?**

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 12:10A.**

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In Romans 12:10, the apostle Paul used a particular word to convey the kind of attitude that church members should have toward one another. He told the members of the church at Rome to “show family affection” toward one another, which translates a word meaning, “cherishing one’s family, especially parents or children.” Paul painted a picture we can easily understand: the church is a family of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. As such, we should treat one another like we would treat our own parents and children—with great love and honor. Our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ deserve to be valued and placed in a position of high regard.

**What emotions might a person feel when they are valued, respected, and honored? How might that influence them in other relationships?**

**In what ways could church members practically show brotherly love to one another?**

**What are the dangers of ignoring this command to “show family affection”?**

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 12:10B.**

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**When was the last time someone “bested” you? What was the circumstance, and how did you respond?**

**Why might Paul have challenged the members of the church at Rome to proactively “outdo one another” when it comes to showing honor?**

**How does placing someone’s needs ahead of your own reflect the good news of the gospel?**

Most of us don’t like being “bested.” We like winning, and we don’t particularly like losing. The apostle Paul challenged church members like you and I to “best” themselves when it comes to showing honor to one another. This is a time when it’s perfectly fine to come in second place. You can always regroup and find another way to come out on top as you seek to place a brother or sister in Christ ahead of yourself.

Paul also may have had in mind the fact that by trying to place one another’s needs ahead of their own, the members of the church at Rome actually lived out the gospel. Jesus left heaven and emptied Himself, became human, and died for us. He placed our needs ahead of his own. He showed us honor and love by letting go of his very life so that we might be saved from our sin. This is the kind of love the city of Rome needed to see in the lives of the Christians who lived in there—a love that placed others first, a love that honored people of all backgrounds, creeds, and colors. A love that was counter-cultural, a love that the people in our day still need to see in the lives of believers.

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MARK 9:33-35.**

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**What is the silliest argument you’ve ever had with someone?**

**What indication is there in these verses that the disciples were not especially proud of the argument they’d had on the way to Capernaum?**

**How does Jesus’ command in verse 35 relate to Paul’s command in Romans 12:10?**

Jesus assumed the posture of a teacher and sat down (v. 35). He felt the need to move into “teacher mode” to correct bad thinking on the part of his disciples. He’d overheard the commotion behind him on the way to Capernaum (disciples in the first century followed behind their rabbi). Jesus explained to his closest followers how “upside down” things are in his kingdom. Leaders become servants. The first become last. In Jesus’ value system, being ahead of others was not a place one desired to be. In his value system, others were to be placed in a more prominent position. In that position, they were to be served and honored. It sounds a lot like the environment the apostle Paul wanted to create in the church at Rome. Is this the kind of environment that God wants to create in your church or in your Bible study group? What’s keeping that from happening? Hopefully, it isn’t you.

## APPLY

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**What member of your Bible study group could you honor this week? What would honoring that person look like?**

**Have you been guilty of not showing love and kindness to someone in your group or in your church? How does God want you to respond to his command to “show family affection”?**

**When was the last time you showed honor to someone in your church family? How might you outdo that?**

**Jesus commanded his disciples to be people who serve others, placing them first in priority. What would you have to adjust to be able to serve others in a greater way this week?**

## PRAY

Lord, thank You for family. Thank You for our earthly families and for our church families who love us in Jesus’ name. Help us to show honor, respect, and love toward the members of our group, and toward the entire body of believers at this church.

## COMMENTARY

### ROMANS 12:10

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To “be devoted to one another in brotherly love” (12:10) is to create within the community a bond of tender affection. Paul called on his readers to “honor one another above yourselves.” He was not telling them to pretend that everyone they met was intrinsically superior. What he was saying was that they were to consider others as worthy of preferential treatment. Put their welfare ahead of our own. Give them top priority.

### MARK 9:33-35

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9:33 This is the last time Jesus returned to Capernaum. The house may have been Peter’s.

9:34 They were silent also described the people in the Capernaum synagogue (3:4).

9:35 Sitting down was the posture assumed by a teacher (4:1-2; Mt 5:1). Jesus’ teaching reversed human thinking. In His value system, being first did not come through aggressiveness and privilege but through humility (Mt 18:4) and by being servant of all.