

THE BIG STORY

"One Word" // Romans 12:1

Have you ever been shown radical generosity? What kind of feelings and emotions did that stir up within you? How did you naturally react?

Compare these experiences with times in your life when you've been issued a list of demands. Take some time to unpack the differences between responding naturally from a sense of gratitude and working to meet requirements.

Read Romans 12 together and notice some of the "action verbs." What changes when you come to see these as ways to respond rather than requirements to meet?

Has there ever been a time when your faith has felt like work, when your relationship with God felt like a burden, or when the church became to you a place that reminded you of your failures instead of a place of rest?

Take some time discussing ways that we can combat the lies that tell us to earn God's approval. Why do we tend to lean toward a merit/performance based system?

In light of this discussion and Sunday's message, what place does guilt and shame have in the Christian life?

After a few moments of discussion, read Romans 2:4. What kind of light does this shed on the discussion?

If a living sacrifice implies that our lives should be living expressions of gratitude, what does this mean? What does this look like?

"If I ____, He will ____."
"Because He ____, I will ____."