

Asking, "What is on God's heart?" is a broad question. Maybe phrasing it, "What is God's heart for us?" helps to narrow it down. We've all had Father's, some good, some terrible. Sometimes we were left wondering what was on our biological Father's heart. But there is a Father who is always for us, who only wants our best and has revealed to us his heart for us in his word.



Romans Overview:

Author and Date: Paul around 57 A.D.

First readers and their location: Romans was written to Christians living in Rome. The church in Rome was probably made up of a primarily Gentile believers, scattered throughout the city in smaller house churches.

Why was it written?: Because Paul had never preached in Rome, he wrote this letter to introduce himself and his theology (Understanding of God). A key text to help us understand **Paul's intent is Romans 1:16-17**—*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

Open-up

Learning to love well is one of the core elements of Christian Maturity. Over the last year have you grown in your ability to love others well? Why or why not? (Use I statements)



Into the Bible—**Ask “What does it Say?”**

Read: Romans 13:8-14

What do you notice about the passage itself? (Structure, repeated words or ideas, unique words, main points, what did this passage say to the original author and audience)

How does Paul describe love in this passage? In Paul’s day, the kind of love he described would have been revolutionary. In what ways is this love still revolutionary?

What is Paul reminding his readers of in verse 11? (see: Mark 13:32-37)

How might Paul have understood the phrase, “love does no harm?” (see: I Corinthians 13:4-7—The word “harm” is the same Greek word as “wrongs”)



Into my life—Ask **“What does this look like in my personal life?”**

How have you viewed God's love in the past or present? In your view, who has been worthy (or not) of God's love? Why?

How is God's love evidenced within the life of a disciple?

The ability to love others well, especially fellow believers is one of the marks of maturity in the life of a disciple? How do you need to grow in this area? (Pray for each other in this)

How can your life group live out the kind of love talked about in this passage?

How will you be different today because of what you just read?

Other Application Questions:

Is there something to worship or thank God for?

Is there a promise to claim or a truth to believe?

Is there something I am convicted about that I need to work on?

Is there something or someone I need to pray for this week? (Be specific)

Is there any relationship I need to work on?



Into the World—Ask **“what does this look like in my world?”**

How can our church grow in this kind of love? What role will you play?

Prayer List:

My challenge for this week:

More Resources for personal and group use:

<https://www.precept.org/know-gods-word/>

A little about Westwood Church...

We believe that God changes lives!

That motivates us to...

Bring Jesus into Life

By...

...becoming an increasingly healthy, vibrant and effective witness for Jesus in Prince George and around the world!

We do this by engaging in three things:



GATHER

Sunday mornings to celebrate and learn about God



GROUPS

Weekly meetings that go deeper in relationships with each other and God



GO

Serving in the church and community to present Jesus to the world