



## LOOP Study Guide You Have Access Week 8

### Key Scripture:

Romans 12:3-11; Ephesians 4:3-13

### Theme: From Consumer to Contributor

### Main Idea

God didn't just save you **from something**—He saved you **for something**. Spiritual growth doesn't happen by staying on the sidelines. It happens when we step into purpose and begin using what God placed in us to strengthen His body.

## L — LOOK BACK

### Icebreaker

Think about a time when you were part of something bigger than yourself—a team, event, ministry, family project, sports team, work project, etc.

- What role did you naturally take?
- Did you enjoy contributing or prefer staying behind the scenes?
- What made you feel like your contribution mattered?

### Early Discussion

Before getting into the passage:

- Why do you think people sometimes attend church for years but never get involved?
- Have you ever felt spiritually stagnant? What contributed to that season?
- Do you think inactivity can sometimes be more dangerous than opposition? Why?

## O — OBSERVE

### Read Together:

**Romans 12:3–11**

Then discuss:

- What words or phrases stood out most?
- What surprised you?
- What does Paul emphasize about the relationship between individuals and the church?

## O — OWN THE MESSAGE

### BIG IDEA #1 — Spiritual Growth Requires Participation

Romans 12 shifts from belief into action.

Paul spends eleven chapters explaining:

- Grace
- Salvation
- Justification
- Transformation

Then suddenly he starts talking about:

- Gifts
- Serving
- Building the body

Because Christianity was never designed to stop at receiving.

**Key Thought: Consumers drift. Contributors grow.**

Spiritual maturity is not just resisting sin—it's walking in purpose.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What stood out to you about the statement: *“God didn’t just save you from something—He saved you for something”*?
- Why do you think purpose protects people spiritually?
- Have you ever experienced spiritual growth while serving?
- What areas of your life tend to drift when you become disconnected?

## **BIG IDEA #2 — Your Gift Is Grace Distributed**

Romans 12 says each person has been given different gifts.

Your gift is not random.

Your gift is not personality alone.

Your gift is not accidental.

It is God putting something into His body through you.

Paul teaches:

- Some gifts are visible.
- Some happen quietly.
- But all matter.

**Key Thought: Your gift is evidence that Jesus won—and entrusted something to you.**

### **Discussion Questions**

- Which gifts in Romans 12 resonate most with you (serving, leadership, encouragement, generosity, mercy, teaching, etc.)?
- What gifts do you notice in others around this group?
- Have you ever minimized your gift because it didn't seem important?
- What gifts tend to receive attention? Which ones often go unnoticed?

## **BIG IDEA #3 — Isolation Weakens Purpose**

Paul says:

“We are many parts of one body.”

Disconnected believers become vulnerable believers.

Like a hand detached from the body—it still exists...but it loses function.

**Key Thought: Belonging means contributing.**

Church isn't simply something you attend. It's something you participate in.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What are common reasons people disconnect from serving or community?
- Why does isolation make people more vulnerable spiritually?
- Where have you seen purpose create protection in your own life?
- What happens to a church when people consume more than contribute?

## **BIG IDEA #4 — Serving Builds Maturity**

One of the biggest lies: “I'll serve once I feel ready.” But serving is not the reward of maturity.

Serving develops:

- Humility
- Faithfulness
- Sacrifice
- Consistency
- Dependence

**Key Thought: Transformation often begins when life stops revolving around us.**

### **Discussion Questions**

- Have you ever delayed obedience waiting to feel ready?
- How has serving changed you personally?
- What fears keep people from stepping into purpose?
- What would change if you viewed serving as spiritual formation instead of obligation?

## **BIG IDEA #5 — Replace What You Left With What God Built**

The message closed with this powerful thought: You don't defeat sin just by resisting it. You defeat it by replacing it.

Jesus opened more than forgiveness—He opened purpose.

### **Reflection Questions**

- What door has God been asking you to close?
- What purpose might He be asking you to activate?
- Are you currently contributing somewhere—or mostly consuming?
- What next step could move you from attendance to activation?

## **P — PRACTICE**

## **This Week's Challenge**

Choose **ONE** action:

- Identify one gift God has placed in you
- Ask someone what strengths they see in you
- Join or explore a ministry/team
- Encourage someone using your gift this week
- Commit to serving in one practical way (**this is a great place to talk about Summer Serve!**)

## **Prayer Time**

Pray together:

- Thank God for saving us **for purpose**
- Ask God to reveal spiritual gifts
- Pray for courage to move from comfort into contribution
- Pray that Fresh Start would become a church where every person uses what God placed inside them
- Ask Jesus to move you from spectator → servant → disciple

**Closing Thought: You are not extra in the Kingdom.**

God placed something inside you that somebody else needs.

**Church is not a service to consume. It's a body to strengthen.**

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## **THINGS HAPPENING AT FRESH START CHURCH:**

- **Summer Serve** - Throughout the month of May we're going to be encouraging those that are not currently volunteering to try it out over the summer. Encourage anyone in your LOOP who is not volunteering to give it a try and join a team at Fresh Start. Check the Church Center app to join a team.