



Romans 12:19-21 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Icebreaker

Tell an electric fence story. OR Tell about a time you were "punched in the face and had fantasies of revenge."

Conversation Starters

Jeff said, "Did you know God is a God of boundaries? God uses boundaries to enhance the flow of love and life to us and the world. Boundaries bring life."

1. Do you agree or disagree, why?
2. When has a boundary enhanced your life?
3. How do **you** decide what boundaries are from God and what boundaries are man-made?
4. Taking your personality into account, how do you generally respond to boundaries?

Read aloud Romans 12:19-21. Just as God establishes boundaries to enhance life.....We need to set boundaries to get unstuck especially in regards to unhealthy family patterns." Romans 12:19-21 provides guidance when setting up healthy boundaries.

Pick one of the following that you most need to learn and tell the group why.

1. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, even when bad things come into your life do not send evil back out of you into the world.
2. Trust God to set things right through his slow to anger approach. Know that God's wrath ensures greater justice than our anger.
3. Don't be overcome by evil, Put up a boundary to keep people who hurt us from continuing to hurt us. Set a boundary! This is one way to keep evil from overwhelming us.

What is one pattern of behavior from your family of origin that you want to stop? How could a healthy boundary help?

4. Keep the flow of God's love and life flowing out of you, put up a boundary against evil, but make sure God's goodness keeps flowing out of you.

How do you set boundaries that stop evil from flowing back out of you, but still allow the flow of God's love and goodness to enter your life and flow back out?