Treasure

What treasure did the Lord bless you with this week that you don't want to forget? Record below:

In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes. I will not forget your Word. Psalm 119:14-16 Jiving Living The Life creatively connecting with GOD

> OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST



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Processing The Week With Jesus

W = What stood out to you?

Review your Journal Notes from this past week, highlighting key thoughts you want to remember, then recording them below:

 ${\rm H}$ - How has your understanding of God grown as a result of your time spent with Him meditating on His Word?

E = Examen

What did you do this week that moved you closer to Jesus or increased your awareness and enjoyment of Him? What resulted in you feeling farther away from Him or less aware of Him? Why?

E = Explain.

How would you explain to a friend what you sensed the Lord's been teaching you this week? Write a summary below of what you learned this week.

L = Loving God, Loving Others

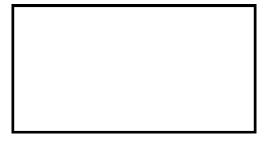
How do you sense the Lord is inviting you to practically respond to Him and others as a result of your time in His Word this week?

Review Your Verses

What if I offered you one thousand dollars for every verse you could memorize in the next seven days? Do you think your attitude toward Scripture memory and your ability to memorize would improve? Any financial reward would be minimal when compared to the accumulating value of the treasure of God's Word deposited within your mind.

> Donald Whitney Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life, 1991, p. 42. Used by permission of NavPress www.navpress.com. All rights reserved.

Write your memory verse in the space below:



Check your verse. How did you do?

Check a box each time you review Romans 12:1 today and review 2 Corinthians 5:17 once.



Although the quiet time is set aside to help build a life that will glorify God, the devotional life is a 24-hour-aday matter—a life of devotion to the Lord. And devotion is characterized by loving obedience. The measure of success in the Christian life is in obeying, not merely in knowing.

In His parting words to the disciples before His crucifixion, the Lord Jesus repeated one injunction five times in words similar to these: "If you love me, you will obey what I command" (John 14:15). He indicated in John 14:21 that obedience is proof of our love for Him, and that obedience is the doorway to an increasing knowledge of Him.

Since the Lord places such importance on us keeping His commands, our response should be that of the psalmist, as expressed in <u>Psalm 119:4</u>, <u>5</u>: "You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!" It was his desire that he might keep all \dots

Lorne Sanny

Living the Life: Obedience CREATIVE MEDITATION OPPORTUNITIES FOCUS: Romans 12:1

Introduction

Day 1 Cultivate Curiosity - Prayerful Patterns With Blocks

Day 2 Consider the Context - Prayerful Patterns With Lines

Day 3 Chew on Treasure - Prayerful Patterns With Triangles

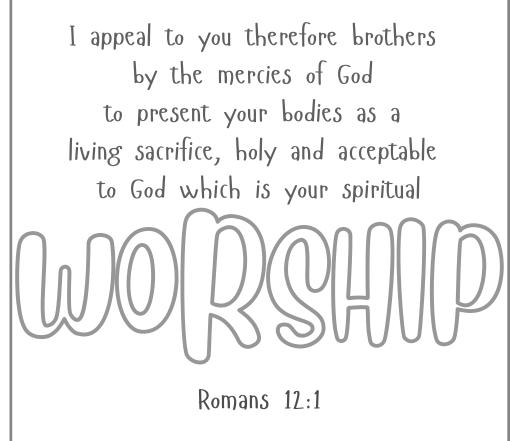
Day 4 Connect The Passage To Your Life - Prayerful Patterns With Curves

Day 5 Connect A Bible Encyclopedia - Prayerful Cross Patterns

Day 6 Contemplate Cross References - Prayerful Patterns Shading

Day 7 Consider Different Translations - Prayerful Pattern Combinations Inside Letters

Processing This Week With Jesus



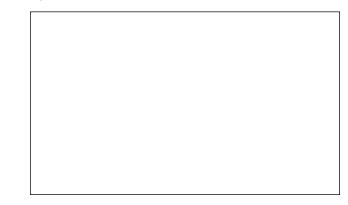
I appeal to you therefore brothers by the mercies of God to your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is your spiritual

worship

Romans 12:1

Intropuction

1. When you think about obedience what picture comes to mind? Why?



2. How do the following verses relate to your picture:

Romans 12:1 I appeal to you, therefore brothers, by the mercy of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is your spiritual worship.

John 14:21 Who ever has my commands and obeys them. He is the one who loves me, He who loves me will be loved by my father, and I too will love Him and show myself to Him.

3. Why do you think these verses were selected to accompany the outer rim of the Wheel Illustration?

3. What difference does it make in your life whether you obey Jesus or not?

4. Can you think of a time when you wanted to go one way and Jesus was leading you in another? What happened?

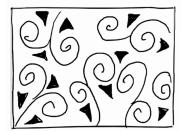


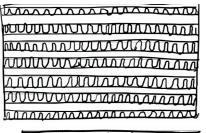
Prayerful Patterns

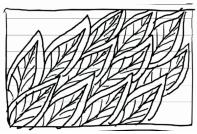
COMBINATIONS

Combinations may look complicated but if you remember they are comprised of the same basic shapes you've been using: lines, curves, squares, circles and triangles, you can usually break them down easily... and be amazed at the beauty that ensues!

Remember meditation is about growing in our ability to go beyond seeing, to observing. What do you observe in these patterns? A great way to tackle new combinations is to identify one element, draw that in the space, then identify another and add that in. I find when I draw one element at a time, moving from the outside in, that can help me replicate even the most complicated patterns. I find tackling more difficult patterns can help me depend even more on Jesus. Ask Him for help. When you consider the amazing patterns He created in nature, you know He has to be loving this!







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-9-9	- 8 - 8 -
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Today, have fun putting patterns inside letters. In the margins above or below, draw a picture capturing the main treasure that stood outto you in your time with Jesus.



When you read the Bible, do you see or do you observe?

In the story A Scandal in Bohemia

after Sherlock Holmes solves a case, Watson exclaims: "When I hear you give your reasons, the thing always appears to me to be so ridiculously simple that I could easily do it myself, though at each successive instance of your reasoning I am baffled until you explain your process. And yet, I believe that my eyes are as good as yours."

And Sherlock replies, "You see, but you do not observe. The distinction is clear. For example, you have frequently seen the steps which lead up from the hall to this room.'

'Frequently.'

'How often?'

'Well, some hundreds of times.'

'Then how many are there?'

'How many! I don't know.'

'Quite so. You have not observed. And yet you have seen. That is just my point. Now, I know that there are seventeen steps, because I have both seen and observed.'"

It's amazing what you can learn when you take time to observe a verse. On the following page, record every observation you can come up with as you consider Romans 12:1 with Jesus. (And yes, you may want to start your time asking "Open my eyes that I may observe wonderful things in Your Word.") You want to invest 15 minutes doing this, so even if you think you've seen all there is to see after five minutes, keep asking "What else?" like Jean fleming does and you just might be surprised at how you start to observe even more! I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship

Romans 12:1

Day 1: Consider Different Translations

"WHICH IS YOUR SPIRITUAL WORSHIP"

New International Version

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.

What do you learn about this verse as you read it in different versions?

New Living Translation

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

The Passion Bible

Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God's marvelous mercies? To surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship.

Amplified Bible

Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.

Contemporary English Version

Dear friends, God is good. So I beg you to offer your bodies to him as a living sacrifice, pure and pleasing. That's the most sensible way to serve God.

Good News Translation

So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer.

NET Bible

Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice--alive, holy, and pleasing to God--which is your reasonable service. How does this connect with your life?

Review Your Verses

You are commanded to put aside the sinful practices of your old self, to be changed by a renewing of the mind, and to put on Christlike practices of your new self. Memorizing God's Word is foundational to that process.

> John Broger Self-Confrontation Manual, Lesson 2, Page 12, Used by Permission of the Biblical Counseling Foundation.

> > Write your memory verse in the space below:



Check your verse. How did you do?

If you didn't get something right, correct it, then repeat that word or phrase five times before reviewing again. This can help to embed the correct version into your brain.

Check a box each time you review Romans 12:1 today and review 2 Corinthians 5:17 once.





What treasure did the Lord bless you with as you interacted with Him today? Take a moment to write it down below or draw a quick 30 second summary picture so you won't forget what He's given you.

Prayerful Patterns

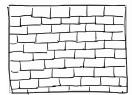
BLOCKS

Prayerful Patterns can help us focus purposefully on God's Word as we creatively meditate with Him. They involve strokes and simple designs easy to master that are repeated to create patterns. Doing them requires no previous art training or skills.

Below you will find five simple patterns for drawing blocks. In the boxes on the following page fill each box with a pattern as you pray,

In Romans 12:1, Paul is making an appeal to brothers, to believers, who haven't or aren't currently presenting their bodies as a living sacrifice to God. What are some things in your past that have blocked you from offering your body as a living sacrifice to God? Thank Jesus for those He's helped you overcome.

In what ways are you currently struggling to offer your body as a living sacrifice to God? What blocks or hinders you from doing this? What blocks those you love from doing this? As you take time to draw different types of block patterns, ponder prayerfully with Jesus and share your heart regarding this with the Lord.



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I appeal to you therefore brothers by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is your spiritual worship

Romans 12:1

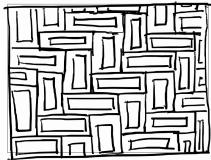
Prayerful Patterns

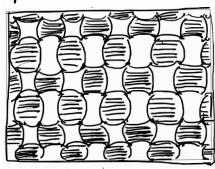
SHADING

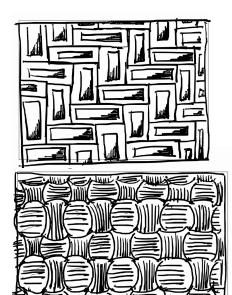
Adding simple shading to your patterns can add whole new depths. In the top row below you can see the difference it makes when shading is added to a simple block pattern.

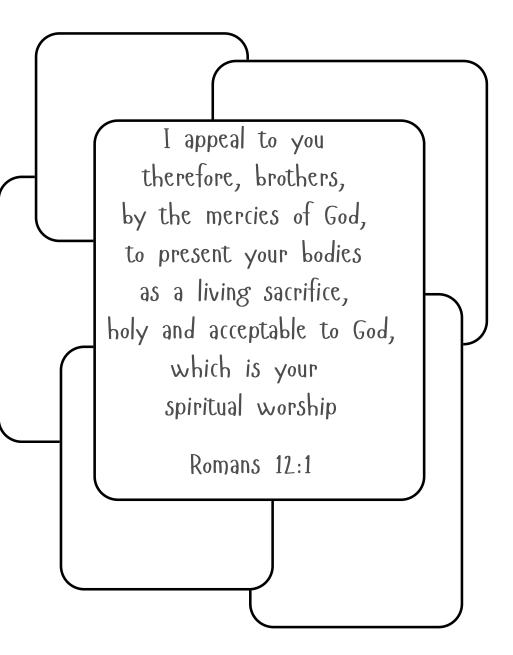
In the second row you will see examples of how you can also add different levels of shading. Have fun with Jesus doing this!

On the next page draw random lines in the margin around the verse and then fill the spaces with different patterns you've learned this week and experiment with shading those patterns.









Memonizing for Life!

On a 3x5 card write out your verse for this week, Romans 12:1, phrase by phrase, beginning with the topic and reference and ending with the reference.

Obedience to Christ Romans 12:1	Obedience to Christ Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God,
Obedience to Christ Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,	Obedience to Christ Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
Obedience to Christ Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.	Obedience to Christ Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Romans 12:1
Review Romans 12:1 7 times each day	Review 2 Corinthians 5:17 once a day this week:



"O my darling, lingering in the gardens, your companions are fortunate to hear your voice. Let me hear it, too!" Song of Solomon 8:13

Here is space to capture highlights from your time with the Lord today. If you have time, write out a prayer of gratitude for what He has blessed you with and let Him enjoy hearing your voice one more time.

Day 6: Contemplating Cross References "HOLY AND ACCEPTABLE TO GOD"

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship

Romans 12:1

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-5

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

Day 2: Consider The Context

WHAT'S THE THEREFORE THERE FOR?

11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and LOOK: wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has LISTEN: been his counselor?" 35 "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. 3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according LIVE IT OUT: to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

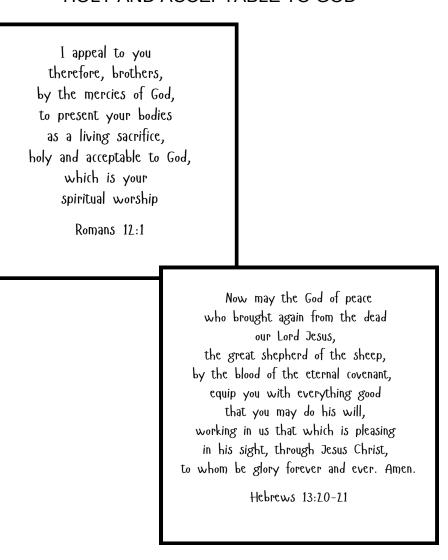
Romans 11:33- 17:3

Let It Last: Sketch a picture summarizing the main idea that stood out to you.

What is the context of the entire passage?

What does the therefore refer to?

Day 6: Contemplating Cross References "HOLY AND ACCEPTABLE TO GOD"



Review Your Verses

"By perseverance the snail reached the ark."

- Charles H. Spurgeon

Keep pressing on! It may seem challenging to develop the spiritual discipline of Scripture Memory and Daily Review but you are laying up treasure for

eternity!

It is so worth it!

Write your memory verse in the space below:



Check your verse. How did you do?

If you didn't get something right, correct it, then repeat that word or phrase five times before reviewing again. This can help to embed the correct version into your brain.

Check a box each time you review Romans 12:1 today and review 2 Corinthians 5:17 once.

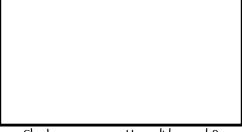


Review Your Verses

"Bible memorization is absolutely fundamental to spiritual formation. If I had to choose between all the disciplines of the spiritual life, I would choose Bible memorization, because it is a fundamental way of filling our minds with what it needs. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth. That's where you need it! How does it get in your mouth? Memorization."

- Dallas Willard, ("Spiritual Formation in Christ for the Whole Life and Whole Person" in Vocatio, Vol. 12, no. 2, Spring, 2001, p. 7)

Write your memory verse in the space below:



Check your verse. How did you do?

If you didn't get something right, correct it, then repeat that word or phrase five times before reviewing again. This can help to embed the correct version into your brain.

Check a box each time you review Romans 12:1 today and review 2 Corinthians 5:17 once.

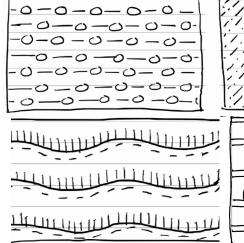


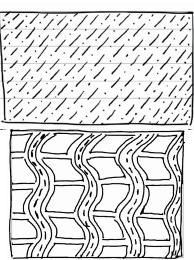
Prayerful Patterns

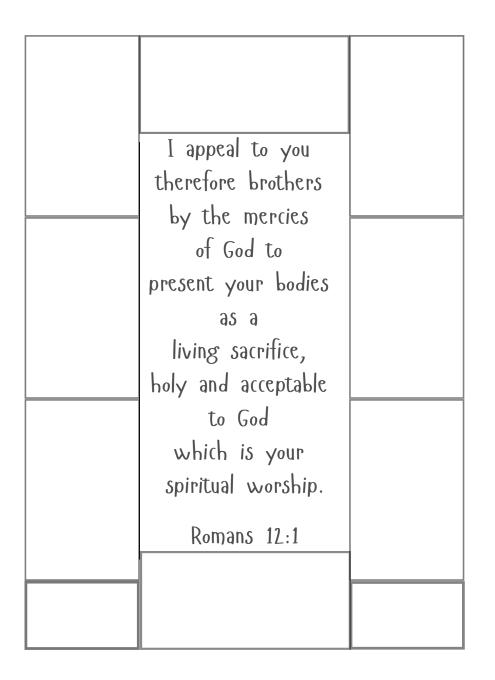
LINES

Below you will find five simple patterns based on line variations. You use these patterns as a template to fill in the spaces on the next page or use them to spur you on to create your own! Have fun with this! But remember to keep Christ the Center of your meditating.

Lines can be used to connect things. As you draw each pattern you can consider the connections you're discovering regarding Romans 12:1 and what comes before as well as after it. You can also ponder, how does this verse connect to you r life today. Don't forget to listen as you enjoy connecting with Jesus!







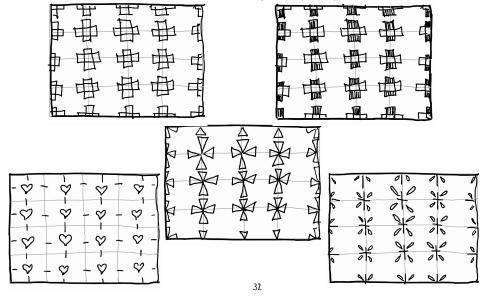
Prayerful Patterns

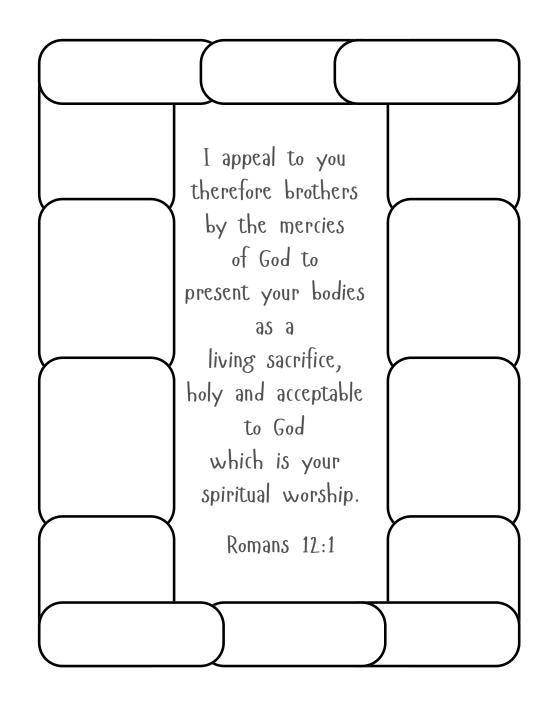
CROSS PATTERNS

The cross can serve an a powerful symbol for contemplating sacrifice. When I am creating new patterns I like to make a grid inside whatever shape I am filling so I can more accurately duplicate the pattern.

Often when I begin to draw a pattern I'm not sure where this may take me. Like when I started the crossbeam pattern below, tt wasn't unti after I'd completed one line I thought, "The horizonal piece looks like a bandaid." So I then drew five lines in the top and bottom of each cross and the verse, "by His stripes we are healed" came to mind. A simple design, once again facilitated some sweet time pondering the result of Jesus' sacrifice when he died on the cross. Another idea is, as you draw different crosses into the different sections on the page, to consider the different ways Jesus had to offer his body as a living sacrifice in obedience to the father (like coming as a baby! Or being perfect yet having to deal with the imperfections of everyone around you.)

Below are other "cross" variations. Feel free to create your own! On the next page fill in each space with a different pattern as you prayerfully ponder with Jesus.





Day 3: Chew On Treasure WHAT MERCIES?

When Paul makes his appeal "by the mercies of God." What is he referring to?

Remember, there are 11 chapters that precede Romans 12. That might seem like a no brainer but when we talk about the context for Romans 12:1, those 11 chapters are really key. Paul is referring to what He just finished explaining in the first 11 chapters! It can be powerfully impactful to go through those chapters and list "What I Deserve" in one column and then "God's Mercies" in the other column. I came up with quite a list! And his song of praise in Romans 11:33-36, really does overflow out of you when you do this! Unfortunately it takes far more than 15 minutes to do. God really is rich in mercy!

So instead, below is a summary by R. C. Sproul. Spend time with Jesus on the next page pondering first, what if God in His mercy hadn't provided this? How might your life and the world be different? Then in the next set of boxes consider how you've experienced and been blessed by each of these aspects of His mercy.

"...those mercies are these:

(1) we are justified by faith;

(2) our sins are forgiven through the atonement of Christ;
(3) God works all things together for our good; and

(4) God calls people to Himself."
R.C. Sproul

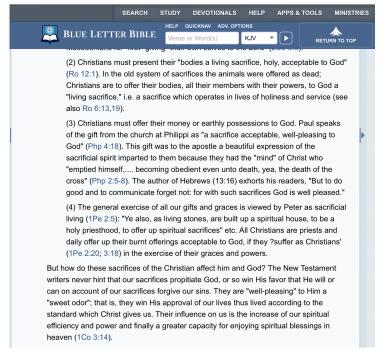


"But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart." Luke 2:19

What did you sense the Lord speaking to your heart as you renjoyed time with Him today? Here is space to record the new treasure you received so you can be a truth treasurer llike Mary.

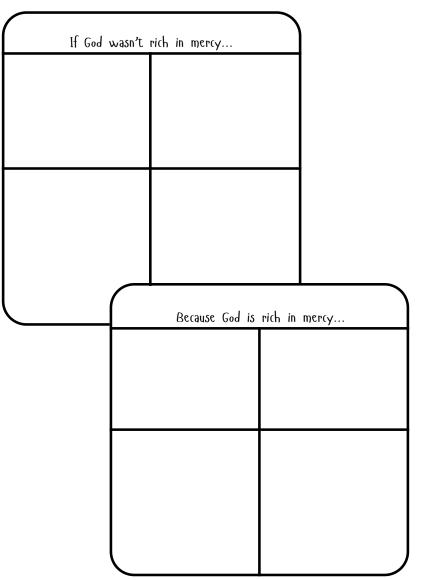
Bay 5: Consult A Bible Encyclopedia "AS A LIVING SACRIFICE"

Below is an excerpt from the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia under Sacrifices in the New Testament, part 2. Underline whatever stands out to you as you read this excerpt.



What do you learn about being a living sacrifice from this?

In the boxes below, consider:.



How Does your Heart Respond?

Romans 11:33-36 was Paul's response after meditating and writing about God's mercies. Three other responses I love are the songs "Thy Mercy My God," "His Mercy is More" and "Behold Our God." There are a host of hymns and songs addressing this.

I encourage you to take a moment to sing a couple songs in praise of God and then write (or draw) in the space below your own response as you consider the riches of His mercy

Review Your Verses

God's word is the best preventive against offending God, for it tells us his mind and will, and tends to bring our spirit into conformity with the divine Spirit. No cure for sin in the life is equal to the word in the seat of life, which is the heart. There is no hiding from sin unless we hide the truth in our souls.

Charles Spurgeon

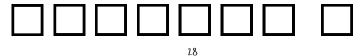
Write your memory verse in the space below:



Check your verse. How did you do?

If you didn't get something right, correct it, then repeat that word or phrase five times before reviewing again. This can help to embed the correct version into your brain.

Check a box each time you review Romans 12:1 today and review 2 Corinthians 5:17 once.





"Arise my darling, my beautiful one, and come away with me."

Song of Songs 2:10

What did you sense the Lord speaking to your heart as you responded to His invitation and enjoyed time with Him?

Review Your Verses

"... the Psalmist had asked to be preserved from wandering, he here shows us the holy precaution which he had taken to prevent his falling into sin. Thy word have I hid in mine heart. His heart would be kept by the word because he kept the word in his heart. All that he had of the word written, and all that had been revealed to him by the voice of God, -- all, without exception, he had stored away in his affections, as a treasure to be preserved in a casket, or as a choice seed to be buried in a fruitful soil: what soil more fruitful than a renewed heart, wholly seeking the Lord? The word was God's own, and therefore precious to God's servant. He did not wear a text on his heart as a charm, but he hid it in his heart as a rule. He laid it up in the place of love and life, and it filled the chamber with sweetness and light. We must in this imitate David, copying his heart work as well as his outward character. First, we must mind that what we believe is truly God's word; that being done, we must hide or treasure it each man for himself; and we must see that this is done, not as a mere feat of the memory, but as the joyful act of the affections." - Charles Spurgeon

Write your memory verse in the space below:



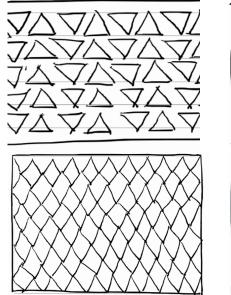
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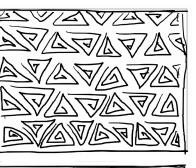


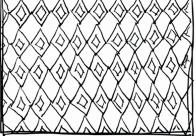
Prayerful Patterns

TRIANGLES

When I'm doing Bible study, I love to highlight whenever I see the Lord's name with a yellow triangle to represent the triune nature of God. I find this can help me keep my focus on Him. As you give today's challenge a try using triangle based patterns, let them draw your thoughts upward As you camp out in the song of praise in Romans 11:33-36 that precedes this week's key verse, you may enjoy listening to the song Fighter Verses has composed for these verses. It's one of my favorites and is found in Set 1, Song #4.As you fill in each space on the next page, draw a box around a word and ponder that with Jesus. Then in the margin on top title your page with a summary of the main thing that stood out to you.





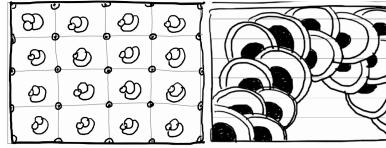




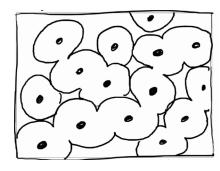
Prayerful Patterns

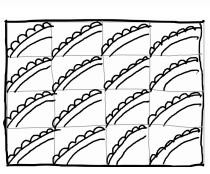
CURVES

The Lord has fasioned women's bodies utilizing curves. Our breasts, belly and hips especially testify to this. There is so much beauty in the way the Lord has hand-fashioned you but the enemy doesn't want you to see, believe and embrace that. As you prayerfully place curved patterns onto the following page, share your heart with Jesus as you ponder this along with the fact your body matters to Him, so much that you presenting it to Him as a living sacrifice is an act of worship. What can it look like for you to do this?



26





Oh the depths of the riches, and wisdom and knowledge of God. How unsearchable are His judgments, and how inscrutable His ways. for who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has been His counselor? Who has given a gift to Him that He might be repaid? For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen. Romans 11:33-36

Day 4: Consnect The Passage To your Life **"TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES"**

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able 92 УW your hand.

1 Chronicles 79:14

Do you not know that to give as generously your bodies are temples this? Everything of the Holy Spirit, who comes from you, and is in you, whom you have given you have received from God? only what comes from You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

We were bought at a price and are not our own. We already belong to God. So why do we need to present our bodies as a living sacrifice?

Consnect The Passage To Your Life **"TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES"**

Where have you struggled to present your boday as a living sacrifice? As you read these verses, what do you sense the Lord is saying to you?

