

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Romans 12:9-21

Sunday, August 19, 2018

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Complete this command: Be joyful in _____, patient in _____, faithful in _____.

Hope, Affliction, Prayer.

2. Give four reasons a Christian can be joyful every day.

Jesus has died on the cross for our sins and offered to forgive us for our sins. Christians know they are right with God by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Christians know God has revealed the truth about reality, the human situation, and His plans for them in the Bible.

No matter what happens Christians look forward with hope to spending all eternity with God the Father, Jesus Christ, and all those who love God and one another.

Christians can enjoy the fruit of the Holy Spirit within them every day, and that fruit includes joy.

3. Name four things a Christian should do faithfully each day.

Pray. Read the Bible. Praise and thank God for His many blessings. Love one another as Jesus Christ has loved us.

4. Remembering what you have learned from the Bible, how might you encourage a Christian who is suffering persecution.

I might remind them of these precious promises in Romans 8:28-29, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”

I might share these words of Jesus in Matthew 5:10-12, “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

5. How did Paul say a Christian should treat his enemies? In your own words, why should a Christian treat his enemies in this way?

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Do not curse them but bless them. Try to live in peace with them as far as it depends on you. If they are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink. Overcome evil with good. Our good deeds toward our enemies might have an effect on their conscience and lead them to repent of their sins and change their behavior toward us — perhaps even lead them to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

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