

1. *You may want to read, review or summarize the opening story to the sermon.* Can you relate to Matt's opening story? Can you think of any examples from your past when it seemed like you had more time for relationships? Or can you think of any examples that prove the thesis of Robert Putnam's book **Bowling Alone** that "we have been pulled apart from one another and our communities"?
2. Read verses 3-6 of Romans 12. What do you notice about the "reality of body life" in God's redemptive community?
3. Reread verse 3. Does it strike you as unfair that God actually give us different measures of faith? Do you agree with Matt's interpretation that this makes us serve and lean on one another?
4. Biblically speaking, what does it mean to be a "member" of Christ's body? How does that differ from other memberships in other organizations?
5. Paul compares the body of Christ to a human body which has different members but only one body. Explore this analogy. What are the implications of this picture for how we should view our relationship to the church?
6. Read about spiritual gifts in verses 6-8. Matt quoted the author Marva Dawn who said, "It (a spiritual gift) enables you to do (something) so naturally, so smoothly and beautifully that others will take note and ask you to do it and enjoy watching you do it ... And it is something that you delight in doing." Can you think of something you've done or that you are doing for God's kingdom that makes you feel this way? Perhaps it's one of the gifts mentioned in verses 6-8. Perhaps others in your group have seen you do something with this level of grace.
7. Read verses 9-11. Do you agree that living in God's overflowing community requires intense feeling for one another? Can we really control our feelings?
8. Action Point: What could we do as a small group to nurture our own members? As the body of Christ on this earth, what could we do to reach out to others lover the next 3-6 months? Be specific.