

**R12 Markers: Part 3**  
Core Group Discussion Guide  
February 5, 2017

**Message Overview:**

Romans 12:12 is an encouraging verse for all believers but particularly those who are tired and defeated. This verse is not just a descriptor of genuine faith and love, but it is a gentle invitation back to a place of rest and trust in Jesus. Genuine love is Hopeful, Patient, and Prayerful. The opposite of these descriptors is a soul who is despairing in their circumstances, impatient with those who seem to be making situations worse, and who fails to wait in prayer before the Father. This state of impatient and frustrated living causes us to make poor choices that are not born out of trust in a good Father who will accomplish his purposes. This Sunday is a call back to a place of peaceful trust in a good Father. Amen.

**Text:**

- Romans 12:12
- 1 Peter 2:1-5
- Isaiah 40:28-31

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. Was there anything from the message this morning that struck you in particular?
2. This morning's message was from verse 12 of Romans 12. Verse 12 continues to describe what genuine love looks like (vs 9). Could someone explain how living with Joyful Hope helps us love more genuinely?
  - a. Following that same line of thought, how does patience in the midst of trials help us love others and God more genuinely? Do you have an example of that?
  - b. How would you describe the relationship between prayer and love?
3. I am going to read a list of categories: friendships, family, finances, politics, occupation, church. When there are problems in one of those life categories, which category most easily tempts you to lose hope in God's purposes? Why?
4. What are practical ways we can remind ourselves...and each other about God's ability to see his good purposes through?
5. (Conversation twist) How do you think the presence of older Christians in our lives contributes to our ability to remain patiently hopeful? What do they offer that younger Christians might lack?
  - a. (if you have time) Where are the places that older and younger Christians interact and have opportunity for these truths to be passed along? (if we can't think of any, brainstorm what it might look like for that to happen in our church.)