

FBC Small-Group Materials
Week of January 7th, 2007
Romans 1:12-16a; Signs of Maturity

For Small-Group Leaders

Dear Leaders,

In the coming weeks a yearly ritual will begin again. The days will begin to warm, grass will once again sprout, and wildflowers will dot the hillsides as creation once again wakes from its winter slumber. When spring comes we see signs of life everywhere. So too when God begins to stir in the hearts of his people, we see signs of life that indicate growth. This week, as we continue our study of Romans, we see some remarkable signs of life and growth in the Apostle Paul. If we look closely we'll discover signs of life such as his teachable spirit, his purposefulness, and his courage for the gospel. I hope your group enjoys this week's discussion.

Blessings,

Scott

These small-group materials are available at the info table each Sunday and at www.fbcdavis.org.

Discussion Starters:

- **Signs of Life** – Spring is only weeks away. With it will come all kinds of signs that the Creation is awaking from its winter slumber. Which signs of springtime do you enjoy the most?

Discussion Questions:

Introduction: Please read Romans 1:12-16a.

1. Who did Paul think would benefit from his visit to Rome (see verses 11 and 12)?
2. Why do you think Paul felt his trip would be beneficial to him as well as to the Romans?
3. Paul was able to learn from anyone, whether they were mature in their faith or not. Why do we sometimes have trouble learning from certain types of people?
4. Why is a teachable spirit so important for members of a small group community to possess?
5. Who does Paul feel obligated to?
6. Very often we view "obligation" in a negative sense. An obligation is often seen as something that is not heartfelt and done out of duty. How did Paul's sense of obligation integrate both heart and duty?
7. What Christian practices do you see as obligations? Which do you take on with eagerness? Which ones are more difficult for you?
8. What does Paul mean when he says that he is not ashamed?
9. What is it about the gospel that has given him such courage for it?
10. Why are we sometimes tempted to treat the gospel with shame by being embarrassed?
11. Is there anything we can do to grow in our courage regarding the gospel?

Putting it Into Practice:

Leaders Note: If your group is large you might want to consider breaking the group into pairs or small groups to answer the next two questions.

1. Tonight we have looked at Paul's teachable spirit, his sense of obligation and eagerness, and his courage for the gospel. Of these qualities, which one do you sense you most need to grow in at this time in your walk with Christ?
2. What would you like to do this week in response?
3. Close in prayer for one another.