

**Ordinary People, Extraordinary Impact****Recap:**

Romans 16 may at first glance seem like a list of names, but Paul's closing words show us the heartbeat of the Gospel lived out in real people. He mentions more than 30 individuals, many of whom are otherwise unknown in Scripture, reminding us that ordinary people united by the Gospel can make an extraordinary impact.

Paul commends Phoebe, a deacon in Cenchreae, urging the church to receive her as a servant of the Lord. Priscilla and Aquila are honored for their boldness and hospitality, even risking their lives for Paul. Epenetus is remembered as the first convert in Asia—proof that God does what seems impossible. Mary, Tryphena, Tryphosa, and Persis are recognized for their tireless work in the Lord, showing that gospel impact often requires hard, unseen labor.

Andronicus and Junia are noted for their faithful legacy, believers before Paul himself, reminding us to honor the past and invest in the future. Others—like Ampliatus, Urbanus, and Stachys—highlight the importance of friendship and community. Paul shows the church is more than a crowd—it's a connected family.

Rufus is celebrated as "chosen in the Lord," pointing us to the radical grace of God, while his mother is honored for her spiritual nurturing. Paul also lists groups of believers whose names are otherwise lost to history—silent servants who nevertheless mattered deeply to God's mission.

Finally, Paul exhorts the church to greet one another warmly and to center their trust not in human recognition but in the name above all names, Jesus Christ. Romans 16 reminds us that the kingdom of God advances not through famous leaders, but through countless ordinary believers faithfully serving, loving, and trusting Christ together.

Icebreaker: Who first introduced you to Jesus or who helped you grow in faith in a significant way? How did God use them?

1. Read Romans 16:1-16 Why do you think Paul included so many names in Romans 16? What does that show us about the value of all believers?

2. Phoebe is commended for her service (vv. 1-2). Where can you serve someone this week without recognition?

3. Priscilla and Aquila risked their lives and opened their home for the gospel (vv. 3-4). How can you leverage your home, work, or relationships for gospel impact?

4. Epenetus was the first convert in Asia (v. 5). Who is the "impossible person" you're still praying for to come to faith?

5. Many are honored for their hard work (vv. 6, 12). Where have you experienced the 'hard work' of serving Christ, and how has God met you in it?

6. Andronicus and Junia were believers before Paul (v. 7). Who poured into your faith? And who are you pouring into now?

7. Paul's greetings show the church as a family (vv. 8-11). What's one step you can take this week to live more connected as part of the family, not just attend as a consumer?

8. Rufus is called "chosen in the Lord" (v. 13). How does remembering that you were chosen by grace, not by works, shape your confidence and humility?

9. Many unnamed believers are listed as "brothers and sisters" (vv. 14-15). Who is a "silent servant" in your life—and how can you honor or thank them this week?

10. Paul closes by pointing to the Name above all names — Christ (v. 16). What's one specific area of your life where you need to trust Christ alone this week?

SUPPORT/PRAYER

(15 min)

Share your prayer requests with one another. Consider keeping a prayer journal and using email, texting, or in the Church app, to share your list with each other.

In your time of prayer thank God for those who have invested in your faith and pointed you to Jesus. Ask Him to give all of us hearts to serve, courage to be bold, faith to believe that He can do the impossible. Pray for unity in your Life Group and the church Body as we continue to shine the Light of Christ in the world around us.