

# BELPRES CHURCH

## **Sermon Title: Overwhelming Evil with Good**

**Introductions:** Spend a few minutes as a group introducing yourselves and welcoming new members to the group.

**Icebreaker Question:** What is your favorite spring time flower?

**Opening Question:** Looking back to last's week's sermon and scripture...How did you live differently or practice what we talked about in your life this week? What did you do and how did it go?

**This week's scripture:** Romans 12:14-21

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. <sup>[a]</sup> Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," <sup>[b]</sup> says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**For Further Study:** read Romans 12 (full chapter) this week.

**Scripture Reflection Questions:** Read this week's scripture together and discuss the following:

- What do we learn about God (e.g., traits, personality, what matters, priorities) in this passage?
- What do we learn about people, and ourselves in particular, this week?

**Sermon Reflection Questions:** Reflecting on this week's sermon, discuss the following:

- How can we bless those who persecute us and not curse them? What does this look like in practice?
- In Annie's sermon, she talked about the importance of not avoiding people or cutting them out of your lives just because they are difficult. Why is this important for us as Christians? Who is someone that you've avoided or intentionally cut out of your life (don't name names!), and what would it look like to engage them like Romans 12 talks about?
- The fruits of unforgiveness are bitterness and anger. The fruits of forgiveness are freedom and reconciliation. How have you seen the fruits of forgiveness in your life or the life of your community?

**Closing Question and Application:** Given what we've discussed together today, how might God want you to apply these learnings to your life or in the life of your community this next week? Who might you share this with?

**Closing Group Prayer:** Spend a few minutes together in your group sharing prayer requests and then praying together for each other. Thank God for the time together, the conversation shared, the other people in the group, and for encouragement in the week ahead.