OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) Can you recall a time when you felt not welcome or not accepted somewhere?

b) Can you describe any areas where you may have different convictions or a different conscience from others in the church? Has this led to any conflict? (see Romans 14:1 – "quarreling over opinions").

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Read 15:5. How has God encouraged you to welcome others? Where have you seen him give you endurance (patience) with those who are different from you?

b) Read 15:7. Why/how does our unity amongst our differences of conscience glorify God?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) In what way has Christ accepted/welcomed/received you?

b) How does the gospel empower your heart to accept/welcome/receive other believers (even if they have different convictions?

APPLICATION

a) Is there any other Christian (or type of Christian) that you have rejected or failed to receive?

b) See Romans 14:15. Is there any way that you might be creating a stumbling block for other Christians in the church?

FIGHTER VERSES: 1 John 4:7-12.

PRAYER

- Praise God for his encouragement and endurance poured into your heart.
- Confess ways that you have failed to accept others.
- Thank Jesus for his receiving of you.
- Ask God to help you welcome and accept others despite differing convictions.