1. Let
$$\psi: \mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{Z}/18\mathbb{Z}$$

$$12x = 0 \text{ in } \mathbb{Z}/18\mathbb{Z} \iff 18|12x$$

since
$$gcd(12, 18) = 6 \Rightarrow 3|2x \Rightarrow x \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$$

so the possibilities are multiples of 3 in $\mathbb{Z}/18\mathbb{Z}$

$$x \in \{0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15\}$$

Next, suppose that $\psi(9+12\mathbb{Z})=9+18\mathbb{Z}$

so
$$9x = \psi(9 \cdot (1 + 12\mathbb{Z})) = \psi(9 + 12\mathbb{Z}) = 9 \in \mathbb{Z}/18\mathbb{Z}$$

so
$$x = 3k$$
 with $k \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

so
$$9x = 27k \equiv 9k \equiv 9 \pmod{18} \Rightarrow k \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$$

so,
$$x \in \{3, 9, 15\} + 18\mathbb{Z}$$

2. $U(8) = Aut(\mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}, +)$

so we want $\psi_a \cdot \psi_b = \psi_{ab(mod8)}$

and,
$$\psi_a^2 = id \Rightarrow \psi_{a^2} = \psi_1$$

which is the same equivalent to $a^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$

so possible values are $a = \{1, 3, 5, 7\}$

similarly, for U(16), U(32)

we have $a = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15\}$ and $a = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31\}$

Next, so for $k \geq 3$, $U(2^k)$ has four distinct solutions to $x^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{2^k}$

Namely, $x \equiv 1, -1, 1 + 2^{k-1}, -1 + 2^{k-1}$

so in a cyclic group of order n, the equation $x^2=1$ has exactly $\gcd(2,n)$ solutions so at most 2 solutions

since $U(2^k)$ has 4 solutions to $x^2=1$ when $k\geq 3$ and hence it cannot be cyclic.

3. $\varphi: \mathbb{Z}/24\mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{Z}/48\mathbb{Z}$

$$\varphi(a \bmod 24) = 6a \bmod 48$$

$$6a \equiv 0 (\bmod 48) \iff 48 | 6a \iff 8 | a$$

so divisors of 8 are 0, 8, 16

so
$$\mathrm{ker}\varphi=\{0\bmod24,8\bmod24,16\bmod24\}$$

Next, $a \mod 24 \mapsto 3a \mod 48$

Not well defined because, $0 \equiv 24 \pmod{24}$ which is the same class in $\mathbb{Z}/24\mathbb{Z}$

but
$$3\cdot 0 \equiv 0 (\bmod{48})$$
 while $3\cdot 24 = 72 \equiv 24 (\bmod{48})$

So, the same input class has two different output class, Ouch!

4. D_4 are the symmetries of the square

Let
$$R=\{0^\circ,90^\circ,180^\circ,270^\circ\}$$

so,
$$rr^kr^{-1} = r^k \in R$$

and for reflections,

$$srs^{-1} = r^{-1} \Rightarrow sr^k s^{-1} = (r^{-1})^k = r^{-k} \in R$$

so we always land back in ${\cal R}$

Therefore, the rotation subgroup ${\cal R}$ is normal in D_4