



Week 3
Discipleship Study
Questions



Romans 8

Some of the most famous phrases in the Bible are "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ", "God works out all things for the good", and "nothing can separate us from the love of God". They are famous for good reason – they inspire us, comfort us, and are all from Romans 8, one of the most-quoted sections of Scripture in our day. But what do these phrases actually mean in their full context?

Join us for *Romans VIII*, a verse-by-verse study of Romans chapter 8. This one chapter of scripture has incredible depth and richness – it conveys the heart of the Gospel, the big picture of God's plan to redeem all of creation, how immeasurable His love for us truly is, and what it means to follow Jesus in our daily lives. Join us for this 8-week series as we prepare our hearts to celebrate our Lord's resurrection on Easter Sunday!

Read the Scripture:

Individual: Read the passage from two or three different translations.

Group: Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

Speak the Scripture:

Individual: Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

Group: Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

Understand the Scripture:

Individual or Group: Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

Dig Deeper into the Scripture:

Individual: Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

Group: Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

Small Group Guidelines

This is a Safe Group

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

Listen

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Over-Talk

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

Week 3

Background: As believers in Christ, we are free from the condemnation the law gives. With that freedom we have a choice to make – to walk in the flesh as we did before we accepted Christ's sacrifice on our behalf, or to walk according to the Holy Spirit. We have God himself in the form of the Holy Spirit living within us, giving us power to live in righteousness and freedom.

Read: *Romans 8:12-17*

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What do we learn about what it means to be a follower of Christ in this passage?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Is there anything God is leading you to do after reading this passage?

Digging Deeper:

Following your heart could be likened to living in the flesh. Why is the heart or the flesh so dangerous? Why do we find life when we choose not to follow our hearts?

What does it mean that we have received the Spirit of adoption? How are our lives changed now that we have been adopted?

How does it make you feel to read that we must share the sufferings of Christ?

Now that we are adopted as sons, what are our responsibilities as we live out this new role?

End this time with a prayer.

If you aren't sure what to pray, try praying the Scriptures you studied today. For example, "Father, thank you for adopting us into your family, for giving us the privilege of calling you our Abba. Nothing we can do can remove us from this family. Give us the strength to put aside the mind of the flesh and the perseverance we need to endure the suffering we share with Christ. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."