



# Week 5

## 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 5

**Background:** Paul has set up some of the most important truths in the gospel so far in this chapter – no condemnation for those in Jesus, our adoption as sons into the family of God, our freedom from life in the flesh and the life we find in the Spirit. Last week we discussed the redemption of creation and a compelling vision for the future – God's original intent for his creation to be restored to full glory. Unfortunately, as we wait for this glorious future, we must also endure suffering.

**Read:** *Romans 8:22-27*

**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:**

Hope is a tricky word. What does hope mean to you? What are we hoping for?

What does it look like to hope well? What does it look like to not hope well?

Can you think of a time where you just didn't know how to pray? How did the Spirit help you in that time?

What does it mean to you that the Spirit is going to God on your behalf?

**End this time with a prayer.**

*If you aren't sure what to pray, try praying the Scriptures you studied today. For example, "Father, we live in a fallen world, but we know that it will not always be this way. Thank you for the hope that we have in your Son and in our redemption. Help us to wait patiently for Jesus' return and for the chance to see your glory in full. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."*