

Growth Group Discussion – Quick Tour of the Bible

Discussion 4 – Life in the Spirit

Reading 16 Summary: Romans 8

Romans Chapter 8 discusses life through the Spirit. In this chapter, Paul stated that everyone who lives through Jesus Christ cannot be condemned because they are free from sin and death. Through the Spirit, they are made God's children.

Warm-Up

1. What signs of aging are you starting to feel in your bones?
2. Do you tend to see the glass half-full or half-empty?

Talk it Over

3. What from this week's readings stood out to you?
4. Read Romans 8:18-30 What elements of a long-term perspective does Paul identify in this passage?

Romans 8:18-30 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. 26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

- How do the perspectives in this passage differ from the perspectives of our culture?

Leader Note: The days of working hard to get something are over in our culture. We are told that if we want something, we deserve and we should get it. Because of this people buy things with zero down payment and high-interest rates, rack up credit card debt and never save anything for the future. We are told that we need to live for the moment, regardless of the consequences of tomorrow.

5. As a group, brainstorm how a person would handle the following areas, with culture's perspective versus the Bible's perspective.

	Culture's Perspective	Bible's Perspective
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Relationship Conflict		
Stress at Work		
Use of Free Time		

Leader Note: The goal here is to discuss the differences in perspective in real-life scenarios. Maintaining a long-term perspective is the reason Paul says there is no comparison between our sufferings on earth versus our rewards in heaven. If you believe that your life on earth is all there is, your view on suffering is much different. Encourage the group to think about both perspectives in the scenarios.

6. A challenge to trusting God with our lives, is we don't know the specific ways he will work all things for good (V 28). In your past how have you seen God turn your painful moments or mistakes into blessings?

Take It Home

7. In what current struggle are you asking God to provide a short-term solution?
 - What might it look like for God to answer that prayer, but according to His purpose, not yours?

Leader Note: Some people might struggle with the idea that God might answer a prayer with “no”. While God does want to give us the desires of our hearts, sometimes we make requests, that we may think are good, but God knows what is actually best for us. This points back to question 6, and that God sees the larger picture of life.

Memorize Romans 8:28-29