

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

This is Us: Romans 8:18-30



Opening

1. Share about your BLESS rhythms for this week.
2. If you could ask God to change one thing in your life, what would it be?

Going Deeper

Read Romans 8:16-30

1. Dave mentioned in his sermon that there is often an unspoken assumption that when you become a Christian, life gets easier, happier, and less difficult. Do you think this is true? What has your experience of Christianity been?
2. In seasons of difficulty, many believers come to a place where they ask hard questions about faith and God's character. Share about a time where this has been true for you.
3. In Romans 8, Paul talks a fair bit about groaning. What is he describing here?
4. Can you relate to what Paul is saying here? What things cause you to groan?
5. Our passage puts our present suffering and pain in the context of future glory and restoration. Do you find that difficult experiences push you towards hope for the future? Why or why not?
6. Read verse 26-27 again. How do these words encourage you? Have you experienced what's being described here?

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7. Romans 8:28 is one of the most popular verses in the bible, yet it's often frustrated people—especially those who have suffered a great deal. If God is always working for our good, why does he allow us to experience so much pain? How do you answer this question?
 - a. How have you seen God's goodness and love in the midst of adversity?
 - b. How does verse 29 help us grapple with this question?

8. In his book, *Lament for a Son*, Nicholas Wolterstorff writes the following reflection on the cross.
 - a. *"How is faith to endure, oh God, when you allow all of this scraping and tearing on us? You have allowed rivers of blood to flow and mountains of suffering to pile up, sobs to become humanity's song—all without lifting a finger that we could see. You have allowed bonds of love beyond number to be painfully snapped. If you have not abandoned us, explain yourself. We strain to hear, but instead of hearing an answer we catch sight of God himself scraped and torn. Through our tears we see the tears of God. A new more disturbing question now arises: why do you permit yourself to suffer?"*
 - b. How does the cross change the way we think about God and our suffering?

Close in Prayer