

LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

When Creation Groans

Romans 8:18–27

OPENING

Romans 8 does not pretend that suffering, disappointment, grief, and weakness are not real. Paul tells us that creation groans, believers groan, and even the Spirit meets us in our groaning.

But Christian groaning is different because it is filled with hope. We know that God is redeeming what sin has broken, our present suffering will not have the final word, and the Holy Spirit is with us while we wait.

Read **Romans 8:18–27** together.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Paul says that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is coming. How does future glory change the way we view present suffering?**
- 2. Romans 8:19–22 describes creation as groaning because it has been subjected to futility and decay. Where do you most clearly see the brokenness of creation around you?**
- 3. Paul compares creation's groaning to labor pains rather than death pains. Why is that distinction important? What does it tell us about where God is taking His creation?**
- 4. According to verses 23–25, Christians groan too. Why is groaning, grieving, or struggling not necessarily a sign of weak faith?**

5. Paul calls the Holy Spirit the “firstfruits.” In the sermon, firstfruits were described as evidence that the harvest has begun and that more is coming. How does the presence of the Holy Spirit give us confidence while we wait?

6. We currently live between the “already” and the “not yet.” We already belong to God, but we are still waiting for the redemption of our bodies. Where do you most feel that tension in your own life?

7. Romans 8:25 says that we wait with patience. What is the difference between biblical hope and simply hoping that our circumstances will improve?

8. Have you ever reached a place where you honestly did not know what to pray? How does Romans 8:26–27 change the way you think about those moments?

9. Paul says, “The Spirit helps us in our weakness.” What would it look like for you to depend on the Spirit rather than hiding, denying, or trying to overcome your weakness by yourself?

10. The sermon’s bottom line was: “The groaning is real, but it is not the end of the story.” What are you currently waiting on God for, and how can this group pray for you and encourage you to keep hoping while you wait?