

Small Groups Study Guide: Read the entire Passage first

- Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Other passages to look at: —Hebrews 12:2

READ THE PASSAGE

What does this passage tell us about God? Who He is and what He does.

¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

It is not if we suffer, but how we suffer that grows us up to be like our Savior (vs 17)

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Present pain does not outweigh promised glory. (vs 18)

¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

Pain is real, but God's power and purpose prevail. (vs 20-22)

²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Since we have the Spirit of God dwelling in us, we groan at present sin. (vs 23)

²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

We have the full payment for our sin, but we have not realized the full picture yet (vs 24-25)

We are all weak while waiting (vs 25)

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

Faith is both believing God and trusting God (vs 26)

Put into Practice: —How to grow in grace

☐ Stop stunting your spiritual growth.

☐ What will you let go of to go and grow with God?

Small Group Discussion Questions

Patience in the Present

Small Group Study Guide | Romans 8:17–26

1. **Read Romans 8:17. How does being a child and heir of God change the way we understand suffering? Where do you need that reminder today?**
2. **Read Romans 8:18. The sermon says, “Present pain does not outweigh promised glory.” How can this truth help us persevere without minimizing someone’s pain? How can or has this helped you endure suffering?**
3. **Read Romans 8:19–23. Why does Paul compare creation’s suffering to childbirth? What does this picture teach us about our own groaning?**
4. **Read Romans 8:24–25. How is biblical hope different from wishful thinking? What would patiently trusting God look like in something you are waiting for right now?**
5. **Read the first part of Romans 8:26. How does the Holy Spirit help when suffering or waiting leaves us too weak? How could this change your prayers this week?**

What is one simple step you could take this week:

PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

Small groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth together in deep Christian relationships through the application of God’s Word. The goal is to care about each other enough to ask the BIG questions of life, such as: What is God doing in your life? What is He asking you to do about it? Then walk with each other through life.

sharing, caring, praying, serving, and mobilizing each other.

SHARING – We come together each week to share a meal, God’s Word, and how His story impacts our daily walk.

CARING – We gather together each week to ask great questions, listen to understand each other, and what God is doing in and through our lives.

PRAYING – We meet together to pray with each other. Not just to speak to God, but to hear from Him each week in community, and daily individually.

SERVING - We work together, using our unique gifts, to serve one another by God's grace and build the body in love each week.

MOBILIZING – We are praying for our neighbors by name and pray through “Good Events” once a quarter.

Leader’s Guide (WITH SUGGESTED AND HELPFUL ANSWERS)

Main Purpose

Help your group see that the gospel is not merely behavior improvement but identity transformation. In Adam, sin and death reign. In Christ, grace reigns. Because of this, we rejoice — not just in what God does, but in who He is.

Pathway

When people move off track of the purpose, point to Scripture and remind people of the purpose.

Understanding the Questions

Patience in the Present

Small Group Study Guide | Romans 8:17–26

- 1. Read Romans 8:17. How does being a child and heir of God change the way we understand suffering? Where do you need that reminder today?**

Biblical answer: Being welcomed into God’s family does not remove us from a broken world. Our inheritance comes through belonging to Christ; suffering does not earn our place in His family. As we follow Jesus, we share in His sufferings while looking forward to sharing His glory. Hardship does not mean our Father has abandoned us, but He uses it to deepen our faith and grow our character.

Supporting Scripture: John 16:33; Romans 5:3–5; Galatians 4:6–7.

- 2. Read Romans 8:18. The sermon says, “Present pain does not outweigh promised glory.” How can this truth help us persevere without minimizing someone’s pain? How can or has this helped you endure suffering?**

Biblical answer: Paul acknowledges that suffering is real, but declares that the glory ahead is greater. True hope gives us permission to grieve while holding tightly to God’s

promises. Jesus endured the cross with the joy ahead in view. We follow His example by remembering that suffering will not have the final word. When caring for hurting people, we weep with them and gently remind them of the future Christ has secured.

Supporting Scripture: Hebrews 12:2; 2 Corinthians 4:16–18; Romans 12:15; Revelation 21:4.

3. **Read Romans 8:19–23. Why does Paul compare creation’s suffering to childbirth? What does this picture teach us about our own groaning?**

Biblical answer: Childbirth involves real pain with an anticipated outcome. Likewise, creation groans under the effects of sin while awaiting liberation from decay. Believers also groan as we experience sin, suffering, and aging bodies. Having the Holy Spirit does not eliminate that ache; His presence gives us a foretaste of the restoration ahead. Our groaning can express faithful longing for God to finish what He has promised.

Supporting Scripture: Genesis 3:17–19; 2 Corinthians 5:2–5; Philippians 3:20–21.

4. **Read Romans 8:24–25. How is biblical hope different from wishful thinking? What would patiently trusting God look like in something you are waiting for right now?**

Biblical answer: Biblical hope rests on God’s trustworthy character and promises. We already belong to Him, yet still await the redemption of our bodies. Patiently waiting means continuing to trust and obey while that future remains unseen. It does not guarantee that every present circumstance will turn out as we prefer, but our hope is in His Presence being with us while we wait. We can take the next faithful step because our ultimate future with Jesus is secure.

Supporting Scripture: Romans 8:23; Hebrews 10:23; Psalm 130:5–6; James 5:7–8.

5. **Read the first part of Romans 8:26. How does the Holy Spirit help when suffering or waiting leaves us too weak? How could this change your prayers this week?**

Biblical answer: God does not require polished prayers before He helps His children. The Spirit meets us in our weakness and intercedes when we do not know what to pray. Our confidence rests in His help, not our ability to find perfect words. We can honestly bring God our confusion, grief, and exhaustion, trusting that the Spirit intercedes according to God’s will.

Supporting Scripture: Romans 8:27; Hebrews 4:15–16; Psalm 62:8.

One simple step this week: Name one area where waiting feels hard.

Each day, bring it to God:

Pray —Father God, You are Good, and I believe Your promises. Help me trust You with what I cannot see. By Your Spirit, help me take the next faithful step. In Jesus name, amen.