

# INKED

*some things don't change*

HOPE • WEEK 4 • DEC. 10/11, 2011 (JASON ANDERSON)

## INTRODUCTION

Over the past few weeks we have looked at some incredible promises from God. Promises that will never change. Promises that if we believe them and live by them will change our present, our future, and our eternity. The promise of peace when we come to God in prayer. The promise that God will guide us when we trust him and the promise that God will save us by his grace when we put our faith in him. This week we dive into a different type of promise from God. It's a promise we don't typically pray or ask for, but it's still an incredible promise from God that is filled with hope. Let the scriptures and questions below help guide your discussion about what it means for God to work all things together for those that love him.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the experiences in your life that have shaped your view of God? Have there been times where God and his promises felt like your only real hope?
2. **Read Romans 8:28.** How does this promise feel different to you than the promises of God from the previous three weeks of the series? Can you think of some experiences in your life when this promise would be most helpful or encouraging?
3. Jason mentioned a church survey where twenty percent had stalled spiritually. What have been some stalling points in your spiritual growth? Can you trace those seasons back to an unexpected tragedy or event? Are you currently facing anything that has the potential to stall your spiritual growth?
4. One of the main misconceptions of Romans 8:28 is that people interpret it to mean that God causes all things to happen to you. How do you think someone's view of God would be shaped if they took this promise to mean that?
5. Jason mentioned a few reasons why certain difficult things happen in our lives. He referenced John 10:10, natural laws of nature, and also our sin and foolishness. Have you ever blamed God for some thing that you later realized was the result of your own sin? Have you been holding a grudge towards God for something he didn't cause?
6. When God promises to work out the "good" for those that love him what do you think God means by good? Do you think you and God have different pictures of what good is? How do you think you begin to align with God's idea of what good is?

## THINK ABOUT IT

Our faith in God promises us many things like peace, wisdom, and eternal life, but God does not promise us an easy life free of trial and difficult situations. The promise from Romans 8:28 gives us hope that somehow, some way, God is going to take the mess and make something good and beautiful from it. What mess or seemingly hopeless situation in your life are you eager for God to turn into good?

## MEMORIZE

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. —Romans 8:28

