



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

DATE 10/4/2017

BIBLE PASSAGE Romans 8:1-2 and 35-39

1. KNOW THE CONTEXT

Last week we started studying the book of Romans. This is a letter written by a guy named Paul to the Christians who were living in Rome. Leading up to chapter 8, Paul has been talking about how we all fail and we all have a sin problem. He then talked about how the only way to make this right is through faith in Jesus Christ. From chapters 6 through 8 he has been talking about the results of Jesus death and resurrection: that sin's power has been broken. This section of Romans is called the "inspirational highlight of the book of Romans" by some. In this section, Paul is talking about the effect that Jesus' death and resurrection have had on the power of sin and the effect it has had on our relationship with God as well. There are some incredible promises in this section that can offer us great encouragement!

2. READ THE BIBLE PASSAGE TOGETHER

3. SPEND TIME IN OBSERVATION

Which verses, ideas, or characters stuck out to you?
What questions could come from this passage?

Observation notes:

Questions:

4. SPEND TIME IN INTERPRETATION

What did this passage mean to the original audience?

What would it have felt like to be a character in this passage, and who in the passage is the hero/role model (if any)?

What's the main point of this passage?

Questions	Answers
What is condemnation?	Condemnation is sentencing someone to a punishment or having strong disapproval for someone.
What does it mean to "belong to" Christ Jesus?	Some translations say this as being "in Christ", but it generally means that when we accept Jesus as our savior and ask Him to lead our lives, we are adopted into His family and in that sense become "His".
Why do you think Paul lists so many things that can't separate us from Christ?	He is probably giving examples of things that they may face, but also is using a long list to show how there really is nothing in the world that can separate us from the love of Christ.
What does it mean that overwhelming victory is ours through Christ?	He is saying that even though the things listed may feel like we are losing, ultimately, nothing can separate us from Christ's love. While it may feel like things aren't going well, we can know that Jesus' death on the cross gives us eternal life with God.

5. SPEND TIME IN APPLICATION

What is the "universal truth" God wants to teach us from this passage?

How can we apply the message of this passage to our daily lives?

- What are some examples of things in your life that might cause you to think that God doesn't love you anymore? (Or something that may happen but hasn't happened yet)
- If a friend of yours was struggling with a tough time and felt like God had abandoned them, how would you use this passage to encourage them?
- If you really believed what this passage says, how would it change the way you live on an everyday basis?

6. PRAY

Follow-up notes: