

5 Essential Questions

Insights on Romans 8:26-39

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, January 28, 2018

All things for good:

(Romans 8:26-30)

- Not all things are good...

- What is the good...

5 Essential Questions:

(Romans 8:31-39)

1. If God is for us, _____

- God is our _____

2. Will He not _____

- God is our _____

3. Who shall bring _____

- God is our _____

4. Who is to _____

- God is our _____

5. Who shall _____

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This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to “Week 3” of our small group session!

We are glad that you have taken this journey with us digging into God’s Word with others. We pray this is a time of growth, encouragement, and fun as you deepen friendships and make new friends along the way!

Looking Back:

Each week we’ll look and have an opportunity to share with our group how the week went and also share a few things to help us get to know each other better. What is something encouraging or not so encouraging that happened since our last meeting?

1. Kid’s have a tendency to break stuff around the house. What is the most expensive thing you’ve broken and what did you do about it?

2. What is a situation that you have been through where at the moment it did not seem “good” but as you look back you see how God used that situation for good?

Each week in “looking back,” we also want to give each other the opportunity to look back since our last meeting and share how we applied something to our daily lives that we learned or discussed previously from God’s Word.

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or needs some clarification?

Looking Up:

1. We saw this past weekend that God works all things for our good. Our ultimate good is our glorification, which is us being conformed to the image of the Son. Read the following passages and note how God used these circumstances to grow people to be more conformed to the image of Jesus/how did it grow their faith?

- **2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Acts 14:19-23, Luke 8:22-25**

How do these stories encourage your faith as you walk through trials of various kinds in your own life?

2. "God is for us" is one of the most powerful statements we can hear and understand as a believer in Jesus. Too often it feels like there are so many things in life that go against us, that it seems as if God himself may be against us. Read the following stories of adversity and see how God was present and for them in the midst of adversity.

- **Acts 7:54-60, Acts 12:6-11, 1 Peter 4:12-19**

Adversity comes upon us all. How do these passages encourage/challenge you to remain faithful as you walk through your adversity? How can you keep the truth that "God is for you" in the forefront of your mind as you walk through adversity?

3. Too often as followers of Jesus we think his love is conditional based upon what we do. This view of God's love often comes from our own insecurities or human relationships. Have someone in the group read through Romans 8:37-39 slowly. As they read, what words or phrases stick out to you? What is the Holy Spirit encouraging or challenging you with as this passage is read?

Take a few minutes after this passage is read and reflect on the passage in your own mind. Then share with your group what the Lord was teaching you through this passage.

Looking Forward:

This last section is based on passages like the one below.

But don't just listen to God's Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the Word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.
James 1:22-25 (NLT)

Let's take a few minutes to silently pray and reflect back on this last week's message and what we discussed in our group. As we reflect, let's all pray and ask God for a specific application that He might prompt us to live out this week. If you are willing, share this with the group.

To help us as we reflect, here are some possible applications to get us thinking...

- As you walk through a trial or adversity this week, look for ways you see God working in and through this situation. How is it changing you or encouraging others around you in their faith?
- When the world begins to condemn you because of your failures or lack of faith, go back and read through Romans 8:31-39, and stand in the truth of God's Word. Then encourage someone you know who is walking through a hard time, with this passage.
- Memorize Romans 8:37-39 to help combat feelings of your own doubts of whether or not God loves you. Nothing can separate us from the love of God!

As we look forward to this week, let's pray for one another!