

Romans 8:26-30 English Standard Version (ESV)

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **27** And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. **28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30** And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Discussion/Journal Questions

Without dwelling too long on the negative, start by sharing your biggest complaints about 2020 so far?

Read Romans 8:26-30. What do you think of the promise that God is working all things out for the good of those who love Him? Do you believe this? Have you experienced this in your own life?

In the sermon, John said that optimism is neither a denial of reality nor blind faith. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

John also said in the sermon that “what consumes our mind tends to control our life” and that “the quality of your life will never exceed the quality of your thoughts.” How have you experienced this in your life?

Reflect on what voices most influence you (what you read, watch, or listen to). How are they shaping your thoughts?

Read Romans 12:1-2. John encourages us to feed our faith, not our fear. What spiritual disciplines help us accomplish this? Are you practicing these disciplines? How can your group help you do better?

Read Romans 8:18. How does viewing our current situation in light of eternity change our thinking?

Read 8:31-39. Meditate on this passage for a bit. Do you believe the promises made here? How does this change your thinking?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?