



June 25, 2023 – Sermon Discussion Questions

ICEBREAKER

1. Do the highs and lows of the week!
2. When you walk through painful seasons of life, how does that impact how you see God?

DIG A LITTLE DEEPER

1. Review the message –
 - a. There are three messages suffering sends us; I've been abandoned, I'm being punished, and/or it's all meaningless.
 - b. Jesus, on the cross and resurrected, is God's "NO" to the messages of suffering.
2. **Read Psalm 44** out loud as a group. Maybe rotate readers since this is a long passage. **BEFORE YOU READ**, say, "Pay attention to where you resonate with the psalmist's reflection."
 - a. Where do you resonate with the Psalmist? Where can you empathize with his pain?
 - b. More specifically, if you haven't already answered this, has there been a time in your life when you have felt abandoned by God?
 - c. When pain comes, why are we quick to assume we've been abandoned, punished, or that everything is meaningless?
 - d. Which suffering message do you tend to believe the most? Why?
3. **Read Romans 8:35-39** out loud. If you think you have time, read all of Romans 8 together, rotating readers again.
 - a. Why do you think Paul is trying to say when he says we are "more than conquerors?" How can someone be more than a conqueror?
 - b. The Greek phrase literally means "keep on being conquerors to a greater degree" or "keep on winning a glorious victory"¹ through Jesus. The key for Paul here is that we don't win the victory; Jesus does. How does one "conquer" through Jesus in the midst of pain?
 - c. Jesus' death and resurrection in the past purchased for us eternal life in the future. How do those two truths (Jesus' resurrection and our eternal life) help us find peace in the midst of pain now?
 - d. What are the things in your life that are trying to separate you from God's love for you?

CLOSING

1. What practices and habits do you need to start to point you to God's love for you, and what ones may you need to stop that are pulling you away from God's love for you?
2. If you're struggling with a hurt, habit, or hang-up, our church wants to come alongside you. We have a great ministry called celebrate recovery, where you can safely work on sin-struggle or shame that is preventing you from receiving the love God has for you. To learn more, go to gracebible.church/recovery
3. Is there any "pain" you are experiencing that we can pray for right now? Pray.

¹ John A. Witmer, "[Romans](#)," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 475.