



As the discussion leader, here are a few things to keep in mind for your Life Group: • **Pray** for your group discussion time! • **Review** your notes from Sunday's message and familiarize yourself with the discussion questions prior to your group meeting. • **Choose** a few questions from the guide which you feel will generate the most discussion in your group. For questions with multiple parts, answer the first part before reading the next part to the group. These questions are designed to build on the answer of the previous part before moving on.

Getting to Know Me

What is the worst physical pain you have experienced?

Exploring the Word – Romans 8:17-23

1. As you listened to the message, what points stood out?
2. Discuss what you have learned thus far in Romans about justification and sanctification, the first two stages of Christian salvation.
3. Read Romans 8:17-18. Glorification, the third stage of salvation, is when we are wholly transformed into our perfected eternal state. Why do Christians need to suffer while on earth? Why is participating in the process of sanctification painful?
4. Read Romans 8:19-22. As done numerous times in the Old Testament, the apostle Paul personifies creation in these verses. Who subjected creation to cursing? What are some examples of how creation continues to be cursed? Why will creation share the same blessings as believers?
5. Read 2 Peter 3:10-13 and Revelation 21:1-2. What will happen to the present heaven and earth when Christ comes again? How will the new heaven and earth look?
6. Read Romans 8:23. How can viewing things from an eternal perspective help us to respond positively while waiting for glorification? How does the Holy Spirit help us to remain joyful despite suffering?



Romans 8:18-23

I. The path to glorification involves suffering (v. 18)

- The third stage of salvation is _____.
- The suffering of sanctification includes opposition from _____.
- The suffering of sanctification includes battling the _____.

II. The curse of creation (vv. 19-20)

- Creation is _____ in the Bible.
- A curse in the Bible is the removal of God's _____.
- Creation is _____ by the sins of humanity. (Gen. 2:15, Dt. 20:19)
- Creation is subjected to the _____ of redefined purpose.

III. Glorification is the resurrection of God's purpose (vv. 21-22)

- Creation looks forward to _____ God's children in glorification.
- Freedom from death and decay is _____ of the body.
- _____ is rejection of God's purposes not annihilation.
- Groaning in the _____ includes both suffering and pleasure.

IV. The Holy Spirit is the deposit of our glorification (v. 23)

- Christians _____ because life is not as it should be.
- Our glory is sharing in God's _____.
- God has not _____ all of our circumstances, but will redeem them.