



Connect Discussion Guide

03.20.22 Message | Tyler Myers | Romans 8:18-25

Key Scriptures:

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

- Romans 8:5-6

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

- Romans 8:18-25

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

- Romans 8:37

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

- Romans 11:36

Message Highlights:

- The mission of God is to reconnect the disconnect, that we would walk as One with God, with yourself and with others
- Sin disconnected us from God, our identity and our relationships
- A relationship with Jesus offers us an invitation to a journey toward reconciliation, liberation and life
- Our hope in the future is not clearly seen, but God's faithfulness in the past compels us to trust him as we go forward

Conversation Starter:

Spring has arrived, which signals new life and fresh starts. What habits are you leaving behind as you enter springtime? What are you stepping into as you enter springtime?

Discuss the Message:

1. Read Romans 8:18 again; what are our present sufferings not worth comparing to?
 - i) Is there a present stress or suffering in your life that seems disconnected from your relationship with God?
 - ii) Even though our present hindrances are not worth comparing to the future glory that is to be revealed, what responsibility do we have to steward these stressors well?
2. All of creation is eagerly waiting for the revealing of the redeemed creation; how does it add to your eager anticipation to know that not just humanity, but *all of creation* is waiting eagerly for this redemption?
 - i) Name or describe an element of creation that you believe reflects this eager anticipation.
3. Hope that is seen is not hope at all; does that truth require a mindset shift for you?
 - i) There are a variety of perishable things in this life that are good things, yet do not deserve our hope to be set in. What are some of these things?
 - ii) When it is hard to believe that our true hope is in Christ, we need to look back and remember God's faithfulness. Share an example of God's past faithfulness that helps you believe the hope that is rooted in Christ.
4. How does today's conversation about the power of Jesus affect our working relationship in the following areas of your life?
 - i) Your home
 - ii) Your job
 - iii) Your neighborhood
 - iv) Your hobbies

Which of the previous entities is most challenging for you to bring the divine mission into?

Pray:

Father in heaven, we thank you for the love which you have demonstrated for us through your Son, Jesus our Christ. We confess that there are days when we feel weak and incapable of living in light of your love. Remind us, by your Spirit, that we are more than conquerors through Christ and that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Help us, by your grace, to stop trying to measure up and then beating ourselves up when we fail to be perfect. Help us instead to measure the capacity of your love for us so that we might live in that freedom, the freedom to love you back and to love others fully. Amen.