

Small Groups Study Guide: Read the entire Passage first

- Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Other passages to look at: —2 Corinthians 12:9–10; Hebrews 4:15–16, **Genesis 50:20**

READ THE PASSAGE

What does this passage tell us about God? Who He is and what He does.

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.

The Hope of God and the Spirit of God help us in present suffering. (vs 26)

When we don't know what to pray, God's Spirit prays with us. (vs 26)

Praying God's will be done is a great way to acknowledge our weakness in praying. (vs 26)

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.

We should be growing in our personal prayer life and praying with other people (vs 27)

We are not just to read God's Word but allow God's Word to read us (vs 27)

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.

ALL suffering is allowed by God but is subject to His sovereignty. (vs 28)

Put into Practice: —Grow in Patience:

- ☐ In Life
- ☐ With People
- ☐ In Suffering
- ☐ With God

Small Group Discussion Questions

We Wait While God Works

Small Group Study Guide | Romans 8:26–28

Read Romans 8:26–28 together. Consider reading verses 18–25 first to hear the context of suffering, hope, and patient waiting.

- 1. When waiting becomes difficult, what weaknesses does it reveal in you? How does the Spirit's help in verse 26 encourage you?**
- 2. Describe a time when you did not know what to pray. According to verses 26–27, what gives us confidence to keep praying when words or understanding fail?**
- 3. Scripture encourages us to pray both personally and with other believers. How could our group help carry one another's burdens through prayer?**
- 4. How can God's Word shape our prayers when we are unsure what God wants us to do?**
- 5. What does Romans 8:28 promise, and what does it not promise? Where do you need to trust God's work while you wait this week?**

What is one simple step you could take this week:

PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

Small groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth together in deep Christian relationships through the application of God's Word. The goal is to care about each other enough to ask the BIG questions of life, such as: What is God doing in your life? What is He asking you to do about it? Then walk with each other through life.

sharing, caring, praying, serving, and mobilizing each other.

SHARING – We come together each week to share a meal, God's Word, and how His story impacts our daily walk.

CARING – We gather together each week to ask great questions, listen to understand each other, and what God is doing in and through our lives.

PRAYING – We meet together to pray with each other. Not just to speak to God, but to hear from Him each week in community, and daily individually.

SERVING - We work together, using our unique gifts, to serve one another by God's grace and build the body in love each week.

MOBILIZING – We are praying for our neighbors by name and pray through “Good Events” once a quarter.

Leader's Guide (WITH SUGGESTED AND HELPFUL ANSWERS)

Main Purpose

Help your group see that the gospel is not merely behavior improvement but identity transformation. In Adam, sin and death reign. In Christ, grace reigns. Because of this, we rejoice — not just in what God does, but in who He is.

Pathway

When people move off track of the purpose, point to Scripture and remind people of the purpose.

Understanding the Questions

We Wait While God Works

Small Group Study Guide | Romans 8:26–28

Read Romans 8:26–28 together. Consider reading verses 18–25 first to hear the context of suffering, hope, and patient waiting.

1. When waiting becomes difficult, what weaknesses does it reveal in you? How does the Spirit's help in verse 26 encourage you?

Biblical answer: The word “likewise” connects the Spirit's help to our patient waiting amid suffering. God gives us both hope for the future and help in the present. Our weakness does not mean God has abandoned us; it is where we learn to depend on His strength. The Spirit helps us in our weakness, even when our circumstances remain unchanged. We can honestly acknowledge our limits because God's grace is sufficient.

Supporting Scripture: Romans 8:18–25; 2 Corinthians 12:9–10; Hebrews 4:15–16.

2. Describe a time when you did not know what to pray. According to verses 26–27, what gives us confidence to keep praying when words or understanding fail?

Biblical answer: We cannot see the whole picture, so we do not always know what to ask God to do. But the Holy Spirit intercedes for us according to God's will, and the Father perfectly knows the Spirit's mind. Our confidence rests in God's understanding, not our ability to express ourselves perfectly. This encourages prayer rather than replacing it. Like Jesus in Gethsemane, we can bring specific requests while surrendering the outcome to our Father.

Supporting Scripture: Matthew 26:39; Psalm 62:8; Hebrews 7:25.

3. Scripture encourages us to pray both personally and with other believers. How could our group help carry one another's burdens through prayer?

Biblical answer: Romans 8:26–27 promises the Spirit's intercession for God's people. Scripture calls us to both private and public prayer. Jesus taught His followers to pray privately, and the early church regularly prayed together. Sharing our burdens allows others to encourage us, pray with us, and help us remain faithful. We do not need to wait until we have everything together before asking for prayer.

Supporting Scripture: Matthew 6:6; Acts 2:42; Galatians 6:2; James 5:16.

4. How can God's Word shape our prayers when we are unsure what God wants us to do?

Biblical answer: The Spirit always intercedes according to God's will. Scripture reveals God's character and commands, helping us pray for what He desires: wisdom, holiness, love, and endurance. The Bible does not reveal every detail of our future, but it teaches us how to live faithfully today. Allowing God's Word to examine us means being willing to surrender desires, confess sin, and obey what He has already made clear.

Supporting Scripture: 1 John 5:14; James 1:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 4:12.

5. What does Romans 8:28 promise, and what does it not promise? Where do you need to trust God's work while you wait this week?

Biblical answer: This promise belongs to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. It does not say everything that happens is good or that every difficulty will end quickly. God works all things together for His people's good, which verse 29 connects to becoming like Jesus. Joseph's story, in the Old Testament, shows that human evil cannot defeat God's good purposes. Through Jesus, we can trust God even when we cannot yet understand His work.

Supporting Scripture: Romans 8:29, 32; **Genesis 50:20**; James 1:2–4.

Put it into practice: Use the MVP's and decide on one area where you need patience: daily life, relationships, suffering, or waiting on God. Share one specific struggle with the group, then pray for one another to trust God and take one faithful step of obedience this week.