

## Into the Heart of the Gospel | Hope In Suffering 9/29/2024

## Reflect + Discuss

- What is something in your life that you have worked hard towards attaining or achieving? In what ways did you see payoff at the end of the process or journey?
- Read Romans 8:17-30. What stands out to you from this passage? How does Paul view our present sufferings in comparison with our future glory?
  - Read Romans 8:22-25. In what ways can you see creation "groaning" for things we cannot yet see? How do you see this in the world and in your own life?
- What are some things you are hoping for right now? How can suffering transform us into a people who hope? Can you think of an example of a time that hope sustained you during a difficult time?
- Read Romans 8:26-27. How can we find encouragement in knowing that God is with us in our pain? How can God use our suffering to form us into the shape of Jesus?
- Read Romans 8:28-30. According to these verses, what does Paul see as the ultimate goal in life?
- What role has suffering played in your walk with God? How does knowing that suffering is part of becoming like Jesus affect your perspective on your own struggles? Are there practical ways can we embrace suffering as a part of God's transformative work in our lives rather than resisting or avoiding it?
- How can being in community help us to navigate times of suffering? Are there specific ways we can support one another right now?

## Pray

Pray that God will help us as we navigate times of suffering. Pray that he will do a transformative work in us, so that we will continue to be shaped into the image of Jesus. Pray that we can find great hope in knowing that nothing could ever separate us from the love of God. As we continue to reflect on this passage, pray that God will lead us towards transformation by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **Next Steps**

Make a plan as a community group to memorize Romans 8:37-39. Check out the <u>resources page</u> for links to several Bible reading plans and other helpful tools. Explore other opportunities for growth and transformation by checking out <u>courses</u>.