

In the sufferings of life, God gives us <u>hope</u>.

• Our hope is based on God's love for us.

For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would should become like his Son... 30 <u>And having chosen us, he called us to come to him; and when we came, he</u> <u>declared us "not guilty," filled us with Christ's goodness, gave us right standing with himself, and promised us his</u> <u>glory</u>. Romans 8:29-30

31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? Romans 8:31

Questions that give us strength for life:

• If an all-powerful God has purposed our good, why would we fear **opposition?** "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are with me. Psalm 23:4

Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Romans 8:32 (NLT)

• If God gave up his most precious possession to save us, why <u>worry</u> about our needs? 33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. Romans 8:33-34 (NLT)

• If God accepts me, whose <u>disapproval</u> should I be afraid of? (And) If Jesus was already judged in my place, how could I feel <u>guilt</u>?

Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son. John 5:22 (NIV)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Romans 8:35, 37 (NIV)

• If we can't be separated from the <u>love of Christ</u>, is there really anything in the universe to fear?

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE In a growing relationship with Jesus.

<u>Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:</u> These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you have hope in the ties of Suffering? Do you know that God will finish what He has started In you?
- How does God's love for us increase hope within us?
- Do you currently have anyone in your life that is against you? How does that affect you emotionally and spiritually? How does Romans 8:31 help you?
- IF God provided for your greatest need (salvation), why would you worry about physical needs? How do we keep worry out of our lives?
- Is your approval & acceptance based on someone other than God? How does God's acceptance of us affect our approval of ourselves?
- Is there any fear that has caused something to be greater (or more powerful) than God?

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The God of your salvation is greater than any opposition.

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