

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SUFFERING THROUGH THE CROSS

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ROMANS 8:31-39

Lie #1: _____

Lie #2: _____

Lie #3: _____

Lie #4: _____

Lie #5: _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

ICEBREAKER: What's a "fun fact" you repeated for years before finding out it wasn't actually a fact?

1. Read Romans 8:31-39 out loud. Let the group have a few minutes to jot down observations. Go around the group. Have each person share at least one observation and discuss it.
2. In verse 31, Paul asks, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Rather than answering it directly, he points backward to something God already did. What is it, and why does he start there instead of with a promise about the future?
3. In verse 34, Paul stacks four facts about Jesus in rapid succession: he died, he rose, he ascended, and he intercedes. Look at that list carefully. Why do you think Paul includes all four rather than stopping at "he died"?
4. In verse 37, Paul says we are "more than conquerors." But Paul says this happens "through him who loved us," not through our own effort. What difference does that make to how you understand the word "conquer"?
5. The sermon said most of us don't believe in the prosperity gospel out loud, but we often believe a softer version in our hearts. Where do you notice that quiet assumption showing up in your own life—the belief that if you're faithful God should make things go more smoothly, maybe in a particular area of your life?
6. The sermon described how we're quick to reassure others they're forgiven but then hear the opposite voice for ourselves. Why do you think grace is easier to extend to others than to receive for yourself?
7. The sermon described Paul's list in verses 38-39 as essentially saying, "I dare you to name something that can separate you from God." If you wrote your own version of Paul's "nothing can separate us" list, drawn from your own actual fears and worst-case scenarios, what would be on it? What's the thing on your list that feels most threatening to your sense of God's nearness?
8. The sermon said the Bible doesn't give us a chapter explaining why God allows suffering (let alone your specific suffering). How does that sit with you? How do you cope with not knowing the reasons?
9. Who in your life needs to hear a truth from this sermon right now? How could you put that truth in their hands this week?
10. Looking back across all five lies, which one has your suffering been preaching to you most loudly?
11. By the end of this week, what is one concrete thing you want to do differently because of Romans 8:31-39? (This could be a prayer practice, a conversation, a decision, or simply a truth you commit to speaking to yourself.)

PRAYER PROMPT: Have each person pray for someone (maybe in the group) who is going through a season of suffering right now. Ask God to be present with them in the middle of it and protect them from believing suffering's lies.