



## Small Group Discussion Notes

### Romans: The Letter that Changed the World

#### Suffering and the Glory of God

Romans 8:18-39

February 5, 2023

#### Warm Up

In our last study we ended with the question of how can suffering glorify God, and the sermon this week attempted to answer that question. By way of review, list what Pastor David said that helps us answer that question. Are there other ways that suffering brings glory to God?

#### Digging Deeper

One of the purposes of suffering is inner transformation—becoming like Christ. Read 2 Corinthians 4:10. What do you think this verse means?

How have you seen suffering change you for the better? Give at least one example.

Gerald Sittser in his book, *A Grace Revealed* asks, "What creates the capacity in us for genuine happiness?" He answers, "Ironically it is the imperfection of the world, deprivation and suffering will do it, or better, will create the conditions for it." What does he mean and do you agree or disagree and why?

Read Romans 8:18-27 and share one thing that stands out to you.

Is Paul saying in 8:28 that all things will work out good? In light of the reality of evil, how should we look at this passage?

Read the famous predestination passage in 8:29-30. What is Paul's purpose in writing this as you look at the rest of the passage?

Read 8:31-39. How do you feel after listening to this? Have each person share one word or phrase that comes to mind.

This is the ultimate foundation for a positive self-image. What do I mean by that?

How does one gain a positive self-image? Knowing you are a loved child of God is foundational but what else adds in?

#### Final Thoughts

Read Philippians 3:4-14 right before prayer and spend some time praying that you might understand and incorporate this Christ-centered focus as the goal of your life and as the key to real happiness.