



Romans:  
A Life of  
Faith

**“FOR THE CITY WEEKEND”**

**SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS**

**DATE: SEPT 18, 2022**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.*

**BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:  
ROMANS 8:14-39**

In the second half of chapter eight, Paul reminds us that God has adopted us into his family as his heirs. Our identity is not based on anything that we have done, but rather on what God has done and who he says we are in Him. Embracing this gift of grace means that we can fearlessly enter into the family business of God: working towards the renewal of all things.

Pastor Brad shares some very practical ways that we, as a church, want to do this in the next 18 months. We are called to invest in ourselves and our relationship with God, growing in spiritual formation. We are called to invest in the church, forming relationships and being willing to serve and give of our time and resources. Lastly, we are called to be for our city, working to positively impact the culture and well-being of our neighborhoods and the people who inhabit them.

**LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. When was the last time you got lost? What happened?
2. When you hear the word “heir” what words, images, or thoughts come to your mind?
3. What is something that you have invested a lot of time, money or resources in? Did your investment pay off? Why or why not?
4. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week? What's one that you are dreading?

**LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. How do verses 14-17 describe those who follow God? What words or phrases does Paul use?
2. What do verses 18-25 tell us about the present state of the world? How do these verses describe creation? How do they describe God's children? What is said about hope?
3. How does Paul say the Spirit helps us in verses 26 and 27? What good news does he give us about our identity in verses 28-30? How do you think these two points are related?
4. What did God give up on our behalf? How does Paul say this sacrifice should impact how we view ourselves and how we understand our identity?
5. How would you summarize Romans 8:14-39 in your own words? What point is Paul trying to make?

**LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. What do people base their identity on today? What kinds of factors (good and bad) impact how people would define, value, or describe their lives?
2. What do you think it would look like to truly live as an heir of God in this world? Do you know anyone (or know of anyone) who you think does this well?
3. What kinds of things do people put their hope in today? Where are people investing their time, intentionally, money, and resources? What are they hoping to accomplish?

## CONTINUED:

4. What do you think it would look like if our church really invested ourselves, our church community and our city? What kinds of things would we do? What might we stop doing?
5. How does someone become spiritually formed? How do people make a cultural impact? What does it look like to be deeply invested in something?

***Look In: These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. What factors have you based your identity on in the past, both good and bad? What things determine how you view yourself today?
2. On a scale of 1 to 10, how well do you think you are living into your position as an heir of God? How could you lean into this identity more in your life?
3. Where do you place your hope? What are you investing in and what payout do you hope these investments will bring?
4. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much effort are you investing in growing your relationship with God? How invested are you currently in our church? How invested are you in our community? What do these numbers tell you? Which area do you think you are doing best in? Which needs the most improvement?
5. How has Pastor Brad's message this week encouraged or challenged you?

***LIVE IT OUT: These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. What can you do this week to become more spiritually formed? Some ideas might be spending more time in prayer, learning about how to read the Bible or praying, joining a group to meet other believers, starting to serving, reading the Bible on a regular basis, beginning to trust God with your finances by giving more.
2. How can you be a positive influence in the culture around you this week? It's okay to start small and just think about how you can more positively influence the culture within your family, workplace, or neighborhood.
3. How can you invest in your community this week? This might mean giving time, resources or money. It can also just mean researching what needs your city has so you can better know what investments would be helpful.