



"We have a God who joins us in our groaning to redeem us through it."

**Icebreaker:** Share a personal experience where something turned out differently than you expected. How did you handle it?

### **Group Discussion Questions**

1. Reflect on Romans 8:17-18: How does the idea of being "heirs with Christ" change your perspective on suffering and glory in your life?
2. Understanding Freedom: Reid Robinette talked about freedom in Christ not being free from suffering but including it. How does this perspective challenge or affirm your understanding of freedom?
3. The Role of the Holy Spirit: Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit as described in Romans 8:26-28. How does knowing that the Spirit intercedes for us impact your approach to prayer and life challenges?
4. Suffering as a Litmus Test: The sermon suggested that our response to suffering can indicate spiritual transformation. How do you typically respond to suffering, and what might this reveal about your spiritual growth?
5. Practical Application: What steps can you take this week to embrace the freedom in Christ, especially in the midst of personal challenges or suffering?
6. Community Impact: How can our church community better support each other in times of suffering, and what role can you play in that support?
7. Hope and Redemption: Romans 8:28 assures us that God works all things together for good. How does this promise influence your hope and trust in God's plan for your life?



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### **Scripture Exploration**

- Read Romans 8:1. What does it mean to have "no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"? How does this verse set the stage for understanding freedom?
- In Romans 8:18-28, Paul discusses suffering and glory. What stands out to you about the relationship between these two concepts?
- Explore the term "groaning" as used in Romans 8:22-26. What does this imagery suggest about the current state of creation and believers?

### **Personal Reflection**

- How does the promise of being "heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:17) influence your view of your identity as a believer?
- Consider the cross-reference to Psalm 22:1. How does Jesus' experience on the cross relate to our understanding of suffering and redemption?
- What theological implications can you draw from the idea that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us with "wordless groans" (Romans 8:26)?

### **Personal Application**

- How can you apply the message of Romans 8:28, that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him," to a current challenge in your life?
- What steps can you take this week to embrace the freedom offered in Christ, especially in the face of suffering or hardship?
- How can you support someone in your community who is experiencing suffering, using the principles discussed in this sermon?