



CROSSWINDS
LIFE  **YOUTH
GROUP**

A STUDY ON ROMANS 8

ASSURANCE
not
INSURANCE

BIBLE



Introduction to the Bible Study on Romans 8

Welcome to our Bible study on Romans 8, a chapter often celebrated as one of the most profound and comforting in the entire Bible. As we embark on this journey through Romans 8, it's essential to understand the context and the depth of what the Apostle Paul conveys in this powerful segment of Scripture.

Background of Romans 8:

Romans, written by the Apostle Paul, is a book rich in theological insight and doctrine. It's often considered Paul's magnum opus in terms of theological depth and breadth. Romans 8 sits at the heart of this letter, providing a climax of thought that began in earlier chapters.

In the first seven chapters of Romans, Paul lays out a comprehensive case for the human condition – our entrapment in sin and the law, and the subsequent need for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. He elaborates on the struggles that believers face, even after accepting Christ, particularly the struggle against sin.

Themes in Romans 8:

As we delve into Romans 8, we encounter themes of profound theological importance:

1. **Life in the Spirit:** One of the central themes of Romans 8 is the contrast between living according to the flesh and living by the Spirit. Paul emphasizes the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.
2. **Assurance of God's Love:** This chapter reassures believers of God's unchanging love and the security of their salvation in Christ Jesus. It's a message of comfort, especially in times of doubt and hardship.
3. **Future Glory:** Paul also speaks about the future glory that awaits believers, a hope that sustains us through the trials and tribulations of this life.
4. **Victory in Christ:** The chapter culminates in a triumphant affirmation of the believer's victory over life's trials through Jesus Christ.

As we explore Romans 8, remember that this chapter is not just a theological treatise but also a source of immense practical and spiritual encouragement. It addresses fundamental questions about our identity, our struggles, and our future hope.

Approach to the Study:

Each lesson in this study will focus on a specific passage from Romans 8, helping us understand its meaning and how it applies to our lives. We will explore the richness of Paul's writing, understand the profound truths he presents, and reflect on how these truths impact our daily walk with God.

This study is designed to be interactive and reflective, encouraging questions, discussions, and personal insights. As we go through each lesson, let's open our hearts and minds to the transformative power of God's Word, allowing it to shape us, comfort us, and guide us in our faith journey.

Lesson 1: Romans 8:1-4

"Prayer & Care – Ask Everyone These Questions, Then Pray for Each Other in Pairs or as a Group

- How was following this week?
- How was fishing this week?
- How is life in general going this week?

Ice Breaker Question:

"Have you ever experienced a situation where you felt truly free after being forgiven or absolved from a mistake? How did that feel?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:1-4: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

SWORD BIBLE STUDY METHOD

Sins to avoid?
Promises to claim?
Examples to follow?
Commands to obey?



1 What do we learn about
GOD?

3 What do we need to
OBEY?

S.P.E.C

What do we learn about

2 **PEOPLE?**

Supplemental Questions:

1. Why is it significant that there is "no condemnation" for those in Christ?
2. How can understanding Jesus sets us free change how we view our daily challenges?
3. What are some practical ways to live according to the Spirit?
4. How does Jesus' sacrifice on the cross influence the way you think about right and wrong?
5. How can we apply the concept of being free from condemnation in our interactions with others?

Lesson 2: Romans 8:5-11

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Ice Breaker Question:

"Can you recall a moment when your mindset or attitude significantly influenced your actions or decisions? How did your thoughts at the time impact your behavior?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:5-11: *"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."*

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Supplemental Questions:

1. What are some examples of living according to the flesh versus living according to the Spirit?
2. How can we recognize when we are focusing more on earthly things than on spiritual things?
3. Discuss how having the Spirit of God inside you can change your actions.
4. What does it mean to have life because of righteousness?
5. How can we remind ourselves daily that we have the Spirit of God in us?

Lesson 3: Romans 8:12-13

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Ice Breaker Question:

"Have you ever had to make a conscious decision to give up something harmful for something better, even if it was difficult? How did you feel during and after making that decision?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:12-13: *"So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."*

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Supplemental Questions:

1. What does it mean to be a debtor 'not to the flesh'?
2. How can we identify if we are living according to the flesh?
3. Discuss ways to 'put to death the deeds of the body.'
4. How does living by the Spirit help us make better choices?
5. What are some daily habits we can develop to live more according to the Spirit?

Lesson 4: Romans 8:14-17

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Ice Breaker Question:

"Can you share an experience where you felt a strong sense of belonging or adoption, like becoming part of a family or a close-knit community?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:14-17: *"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him."*

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- S.P.E.C**
What do we learn about

Supplemental Questions:

1. What are some ways that we can be led by the Spirit of God?
2. How does being a child of God change how we view ourselves and our future?
3. Discuss the feeling of having God as our Father.
4. What does being an heir with Christ mean for us in our everyday lives?
5. How can knowing we are God's children help us in difficult times?

Lesson 5: Romans 8:18-25

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Ice Breaker Question:

"Can you recall a time when you anticipated something greatly, maybe a major life event or a special occasion? How did that sense of anticipation affect your actions and mindset?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:18-25: *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."*

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Supplemental Questions:

1. How can focusing on future glory help us deal with present struggles?
2. What does it mean that the creation is waiting for the revealing of the sons of God?
3. How can understanding that we, along with all creation, are waiting for something better, help us be patient?
4. Discuss how hope in things we can't see can be a positive force in our lives.
5. What are some things we hope for as Christians, and how does this hope influence our actions?

Lesson 6: Romans 8:26-27

Ice Breaker Question:

"Have you ever been in a situation where you found it difficult to express your thoughts or feelings, yet someone understood you perfectly? How did that make you feel?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:26-27: *"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."*

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Supplemental Questions:

1. How can the Holy Spirit help us when we don't know what to pray for?
2. Share a time when you felt comforted in knowing that the Spirit intercedes for you.
3. What does it mean that the Spirit intercedes for us with 'groanings too deep for words'?
4. How does the Spirit help align our prayers with God's will?
5. How can we become more aware of the Spirit's presence and help in our lives?

Lesson 7: Romans 8:28-30

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Ice Breaker Question:

"Can you share an experience where something initially seemed negative or challenging, but later you realized it contributed to something good or positive in your life?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:28-30: *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined, he also called; and those whom he called, he also justified; and those whom he justified, he also glorified."*

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Supplemental Questions:

1. How can the idea that all things work together for good shape how we view tough situations?
2. What does being 'called according to his purpose' mean in everyday life?
3. Discuss how knowing God has a plan for us can give us confidence in our choices.
4. How can we understand being 'conformed to the image of his Son' in a practical sense?
5. Reflect on the steps of God's plan (foreknown, predestined, called, justified, glorified) and how they give us assurance.

Lesson 8: Romans 8:31-34

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Ice Breaker Question:

"Have you ever felt an overwhelming sense of support or advocacy from someone in a challenging situation? How did that change your perspective or response to the challenge?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:31-34: *"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us."*

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Supplemental Questions:

1. How does knowing 'God is for us' change how we face challenges?
2. What does it mean that God did not spare His own Son for us?
3. How can we find comfort in knowing that Jesus is interceding for us?
4. Discuss ways we can overcome feelings of guilt or accusation because of this passage.
5. How does this passage encourage us to advocate for and support each other?

Lesson 9: Romans 8:35-37

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Ice Breaker Question:

"Have you ever faced a situation where your commitment to a cause or a relationship was tested? How did you find strength to persevere?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:35-37: *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."*

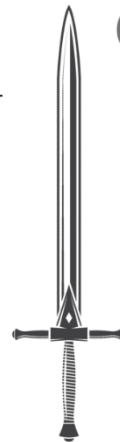
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Supplemental Questions:

1. What are some challenges that might make us feel separated from Christ's love?
2. How can we remind ourselves that we are 'more than conquerors' in difficult times?
3. Share a personal experience where you felt Christ's love during a hard time.
4. How can the assurance of Christ's love help us face fears about the future?
5. What are some ways we can show others that they are loved by Christ?

Lesson 10: Romans 8:38-39

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Ice Breaker Question:

"Is there something in your life that you believe in unconditionally? What gives you such strong confidence in it?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:38-39: *"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

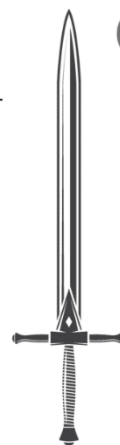
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Supplemental Questions:

1. What are some things that might make us feel separated from God's love, and how can we overcome these feelings?
2. How does the certainty of God's love change how you view life's uncertainties?
3. In what ways can we share the message of God's unending love with others?
4. How does knowing that nothing can separate us from God's love influence your relationships with others?
5. Discuss ways we can live out the confidence of being loved by God in our daily lives.