

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Romans 8:12-39. What questions come to you as you read the text? What do you find most challenging/encouraging?
2. What sorts of demands does our flesh put upon us? Some “desires of the flesh” are helpful (we need to eat for example) but some are deathly. How do you steer yourself away from that which would be harmful? How does focusing on the greater & lasting reward help endure earthly difficulty?
3. What is the difference between how a slave views the world & how a son views the world? How can we fall back into fear, even as children of God?
4. How can Paul speak with authority about suffering? From what you remember, what sufferings had he experienced? How does that give him credibility as a fellow sufferer?
5. How did the Fall affect both creation & our bodies? How do these verses help you better understand the current state of the world & your own life?
6. The words translated “God’s curse” in verse 20 could be better translated as “futility” or “fleeting meaninglessness” as in Ecclesiastes, but, according to these verses, the pattern of futility will be broken. What does it mean that the creation has been subjected “in hope?” How might that future reality shape how we view & live in the world now?
7. Verse 28 does not say “all things are good,” but “God causes all things to work together for good.” Why should believers make this distinction? How might this distinction help us when we experience great suffering or hardship? Why does it feel sometimes like all things are **NOT** working together for good?
8. Paul lists a series of questions & answers that believers often wrestle with, especially in times of suffering & struggles to defeat persistent sin. Which of these questions do you most identify with? How might Paul’s answer help you in your difficult days?
9. Read v. 38-39. How has God proven this promise in your life? Where do you need God to demonstrate this reality for you at this time in your life?
10. What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with these texts?

Remember:

From Christ himself we have hope, help, & love in our suffering.

Continue praying through the week:

***Father prepare me for whatever you require today
and lead me in faith wherever you call me to go.
In Jesus’ Name...Amen.***

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Living Water Fellowship

18th Sunday in Pentecost – 12th October 2025

COME TO JESUS

SONG: Lord I Lift Your Name on High

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

SONG: Canticle of Daniel

BIBLE READING: Romans 8:12-25

¹² Therefore, dear brothers & sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.”

¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. ¹⁹ For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death & decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ We believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin & suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. ²⁴ We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don’t need to hope for it. ²⁵ But if we look forward to something we don’t yet have, we must wait patiently & confidently.)

CHILDREN’S TIME

BIBLE READING: Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷ And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.

²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God & are called according to his purpose for them. ²⁹ For God knew his people in advance, & he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers & sisters. ³⁰ And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

³¹ What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honour at God's right hand, pleading for us.

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE MESSAGE: *THE GOSPEL IN SUFFERING II*

Guest Preacher – Gospel Partner Mark Woodhouse CSU AFES UniChurch

OFFERING SONG: This is How We Know

PRAYERS:

The Communion:

Preparation:

Christ gave to the church the bread of heaven, his flesh & blood, for our forgiveness, life & salvation. Paul records that gracious gift with these words:

For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it." For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

Lord Jesus have mercy on us according to your steadfast love. Wash the sinfulness out of us, & help us to live as your children bringing honour to you. We seek your unfailing Lordship & ask for your prevailing joy in our lives. You are the immortal, invisible One; to you be honour & glory forever; Amen.

*In Christ: every lost sheep pursued, every lost coin is missed, sought, found & rejoiced over, & every lost child is welcomed home with rejoicing. **Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion:

VIDEO – You Are My All In All (Maranatha! Music)

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

***(Name), † child of God,
Nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ!
-- Amen.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: Rejoice the Lord is King

SHOW HIS LOVE