

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 28, 2013

Passage: Romans 8:35-39

Memory Passage: Review Romans 8:1-39

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Romans 8:35-39.** How and in what verse does Paul answer the first question he poses in v. 35? Why does Paul feel the need to ask and answer this particular question about separation from the love of Christ?

(b) Define the word “love.” Write down all of the people, places, and things for which you could say you have love. How do you know you love these things above other things? Describe your affection for these people/places/things.

(c) How does Paul describe the love of Christ in Romans (see, for example, 5:6-10)? How does this love of Christ for us connect vs. 35-39 to what has preceded? How does 8:35-39 connect with 8:1, and how does this connection help us understand the entire chapter? How does this love compare with the love you described in (b) above?

(d) *Family:* Ask, “What are some things that should not be separated?” (The answers could be many, but a few might be: A mother from her child, a trailer from its truck, a horse from its carriage, peanut butter from jelly, train cars from the engine, etc.). Now ask, “What are the consequences of these things being separated?” After discussion, **Read Rom. 8:35a** and ask, “Why is it important that believers never be separated from Christ’s love” (because Jesus’ love for us is shown in His willing sacrifice on our behalf to provide for us everything needed for our salvation, so since God has planned everything we needed [the Golden Chain], if we could be separated from that love we could lose our salvation, which is something we cannot do)? Spend the rest of your time reviewing the gospel as we have found it in Romans and leading your family to (a) a point of repentance of their sins & faith in Christ, should God grant it, and/or (b) encouragement for those who are already saved because of the security we have in Christ.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Rom. 8:35-39.** Why does Paul begin v. 35 with “who” and then proceed to list things instead of people that will not separate us from the love of Christ? How do you think Paul arrived at this particular list (cf. 1 Cor. 4:10-13; 2 Cor. 6:4-5 & 11:22-27)? Is this list meant to be exhaustive? Why or why not (your context provides the correct answer!)?

(b) Write down a definition of each of the things mentioned in v. 35. According to vs. 35-36, is our guarantee of not being separated from Christ promising to *free us from experiencing* these trials or promising *we will experience* them?

(c) Now write down several ways in which you have in the past, could in the present, or might in the future experience each of these categories. How does the promise of not being separated from Christ’s love bring hope and encouragement in the midst of this type of suffering?

(d) *Family:* Prior to the lesson, make 2 columns on your white board. In the left column write the definitions for each of the trials found in Rom. 8:35, but mix up the order. **Read Rom. 8:35.** Have your family read the first definition and choose which trial (from the list in v. 35) the definition fits. Do this for all the words, and then lead your family in a discussion of ways in which they might face each one of these, and help them understand how the truth of not being separated from Christ’s love (**Read Rom. 5:6-10** to remind them how Paul thought of Christ’s love for us) helps them persevere with joy during such trials.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Rom. 8:35-39 & Ps. 44.** What is Paul’s point in v. 36? Paul quotes Psalm 44:22 in Rom. 8:36. Explain the context of Psalm 44 and what truth the verse is conveying in the Psalm. Is the message of Psalm 44 different than Romans 8? If so, how so, and why does Paul use this particular verse to make his point? If not, what is similar in the messages?

(b) Verse 37 begins with, “No . . .” (NASB = “But”). What is Paul negating here? What are the “all these things” to which he refers? Notice the repeated phrase, “all things” (vs. 28, 32, 37). What is Paul telling us with this repetition as he crescendos his encouraging narrative in chapter 8?

(c) What does it mean that believers are “more than conquerors?” What is the difference between being a “conqueror” and “more than a conqueror?” How, exactly, do we conquer, “through him who loved us?”

(d) What areas of your life are you in need of becoming “more than a conqueror?” What does conquering in these areas actually look like for you? How will the truths of Romans 8 help you live more in line with the truth of who you are in Christ (i.e. as “more than a conqueror”)?

(e) *Family:* Ask, “What does it mean to ‘conquer’ something?” After a bit of discussion, ask your family to explain how a person would conquer a fear, such as jumping off the high dive or a fear of the dark. Discuss what conquering this fear would look like. For instance, conquering the fear of jumping off the high dive would mean we could now actually jump, repeatedly,

off of the high dive. Then **Read Rom. 8:35-37** and discuss how believers, through the love of Christ (remind them that the love of Christ is expressed in His sacrifice on the cross so that we could have eternal life), can more than conquer the trials of life. Use some of the examples you came up with last night to demonstrate how our security in Christ and our promise of future glorification with Christ not only help us persevere in this life (your discussion last night) but more than that, cause all of the tribulations and trials of this life to be “not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Rom. 8:18) because we are more than conquerors in them and “for those who love God all things work together for good” (Rom 8:28).

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 8:35-39.** In order to make sure that we understand that absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, Paul expands the list of “all these things” in vs. 38-39. Write down each word (4 pairs and 2 singles) and write a definition of each one. Some are self-explanatory and others need some work, so you might find these passages helpful to understand what Paul is meaning with some of these words: **1 Cor. 15:24; Eph. 1:21, 3:10, 6:12; Col. 1:15, 2:10, 15.**

(b) Consider everything Paul mentions in vs. 35 & 38-39. In what ways might these things tempt people to think they had been separated from God’s love in Christ? In what ways might these things tempt professing believers to renounce their faith in Christ, and what would be proven about their profession if they *did* renounce their faith while suffering in these ways?

(c) Choose the trial mentioned in these verses that evokes the most fear or distress in your soul at the consideration of suffering it. Write down at least 3 ways in which the truths presented in Romans 8 will calm your fear & distress if indeed you ever were ordained to suffer in this way. Memorize the verses from which the applications come so you are ready to be more than a conqueror through Christ who loves you. You may never face this type of trial, but then again, you may face it today.

(d) *Family:* **Read Rom. 8:38-39.** Explain each of the terms (FYI: angels, rulers, and powers all refer to angelic beings and the spiritual warfare going on all the time, as described, for instance, in Ephesians 6). Now choose one of the things mentioned in vs. 35 & 38-39 and show your family how to apply at least 3 truths from Romans 8 in this particular situation. You can choose a situation that you have faced in your life and how you applied (or wish you had applied) the truths, or you can choose one as a family that everyone thinks might be the most traumatic or fearful to face.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 5:1-8:39.** As we end our study of chapter 8 we conclude the 2nd major section of Romans. Take time today to read it through and make some notes concerning (1) the major themes of each section, (2) encouragement you have gained from any of the truths taught, (3) at least 3 ways you have applied something found in these verses during the last 6 months, and (4) testimonies of what you learned, how you were changed, how you have grown, how you have been challenged, etc. All of these will make great points of discussion in your Sunday school class, so be ready to share!

(b) *Family:* In preparation for this lesson, spend time working through (a) above. Then take this time to lead your family through the main truths found in these 4 chapters, and highlight the main things of which you would like to remind your family. Include applications as well as doctrine in order to remind them of how the text should be affecting their daily life.

DATE: July 28, 2013

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God’s Unfailing Love (Part II)

In Romans 8:31-39 Paul answers 5 crucial questions concerning God’s love for His people.