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Hey small group leaders! What a JOY to celebrate Easter with our church family and people from our communities who joined us this year. We hope that your group was greatly encouraged, challenged, and delighted through the singing, preaching, and gathering of believers who proclaimed that Jesus is ALIVE!

Next week, we will begin a NEW series called “Real Talk.” Relationships are beautiful, but they’re also complicated. Whether it’s friendship, marriage, family, or community, navigating them isn’t always easy. In this series, we’re pulling up a chair and having honest, biblical conversations about the things that matter most. When Jesus is at the center of our relationships, everything begins to change. No filters. No fluff. Just real talk about how to build stronger, healthier connections that reflect God’s heart and His design for us!

*Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!*

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?  
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or [discipleship@rockbridge.cc](mailto:discipleship@rockbridge.cc)

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**“Live in the light of resurrection and renewal of this world, and of yourself, in a glorious, never-ending, joyful dance of grace.”**

[Tim Keller]

**LEADER RESOURCES ||** **Leader Note** We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!

- **Passage Summary**
  - An astonishing promise (v. 28) backed by the powerful logic (v. 32) of the Gospel provides the basis for living an unshakeable life. Paul convincingly and pastorally positions the Gospel’s logic against the troubles of the world, using a greater to lesser, harder to easier argument. He then invites people to live out this logic without hesitation and with an eternal and unshakeable confidence in God’s love for them.
- **Romans Ch. 8 Commentary & Unbreakable**
  - Use the commentary and short video for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before you gather.
- **What Will You Do With Easter?**
  - This would be a good resource to share with your group after you gather.

**ENGAGE & CONNECT ||** **Leader Note** The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another’s hearts and building joy together.

Over the past few weeks, what are you most grateful for OR what has brought you the most joy?

**BEGIN WITH PRAYER ||** **Leader Note** Begin your time together thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, taking a posture of humility and dependence!

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*"But from eternity to eternity the Lord's faithful love is toward those who fear him, and his righteousness toward the grandchildren of those who keep his covenant, who remember to observe his precepts."*

[Psalm 103:17-18]

**BIG IDEA || Leader Note** Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today's reading and discussion.

Grasp and be grasped by the loving logic of the Gospel!

**PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note** Have people read aloud the passage as instructed. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!

Have someone read aloud Romans 8:28-39. Consider having someone else read it aloud again, possibly in a different translation.

1. A "functional god" is something or someone that we place our ultimate trust, dependence, or love in, as if that thing or person were God. In the sermon we heard, *"Our functional gods can be fragile, frustrating, and futile."* What or who in your life was a functional god for you? How did that lead you away from the love and life God had for you? Let's be honest with one another! *This is a good opportunity to go first!*
2. What does Paul mean when he says, "all things work together for the good of those who love God"? Who is this promise for? *Paul is not saying everything that happens is good, but that God works in all things—even suffering, loss, and failure—for the eternal good of those who love Him. This promise is for believers—those who love God and have been called by Him.*
3. In v. 31–32, how does Paul use logic to strengthen our confidence in God? *Paul uses a greater-to-lesser argument: If God gave up His own Son for us—the hardest and most costly thing—won't He also graciously give us everything we need? If the greater has been done, the lesser is guaranteed.*
4. Paul's logic in this passage challenges the idea that God's love is proven by easy circumstances. Why is this important for us to understand? *Answers will vary: many people assume God loves them only when life goes well, but the cross shows that God's love is most fully expressed in suffering. Knowing this helps us endure hardship with faith and hope.*
5. What's the danger of stopping at "God has a plan" without embracing the "good" promised in v. 28? *Answers will vary: stopping at "God has a plan" may lead to resignation or confusion. When we understand that His plan is rooted in love and aimed at our eternal good, we find hope and purpose, not just passive acceptance.*
6. How does the Gospel logic challenge the world's logic about power, approval, and comfort? *Answers will vary: the world says happiness comes from control, praise, and ease. The Gospel says true life comes from surrender, justification, and sacrificial love. It defines winning as trusting in what Jesus has already won.*
7. Where in your life do you need to "preach the Gospel to your circumstances" this week? *Identify a struggle—grief, disappointment, anxiety, or sin—and speak God's promises to it. For example, "This hurt won't have the last word. God is using it for good."*

8. What does it mean for you personally to be “more than a conqueror” in your present season of life? *Answers will vary: it doesn't mean life is easy, but that we have victory through Christ even in suffering. It means we are not defined by what we're facing, but by who is holding us.*
9. How can we become a community that consistently reminds each other of the logic and love of the Gospel in hard times? *By practicing Gospel-centered encouragement, sharing Scripture, praying for one another, and resisting the urge to offer shallow advice. We help each other remember what's ultimately true.*
10. What's one way we, as a small group, can proclaim and live out the unshakable hope of Romans 8 in our community or church this month? *Serving others during suffering, testifying to God's faithfulness, or supporting someone going through trials. Our actions can reflect the security, joy, and power of life in Christ.*

**STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note** This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.

Here is a beautiful reminder: the evidence of our lives do not prove OR disprove God's love. The life—death—life of Jesus proves His love for us! Romans 8:37-39 reinforces this: “*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

Based on the Scripture passage, our discussion, and the leading of the Holy Spirit, what is a next step of faith that you can take this week?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.

**PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note** We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5-10 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. Pray for one another as well as the prompts below!

### Grasping the Loving Logic of the Gospel

- The Gospel isn't just good news—it's the breathtaking revelation of God's love and grace, poured out through Christ. When we truly grasp the loving logic of the Gospel—that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us—we are transformed. When that Gospel truth *grasps* us, it reshapes our identity, our purpose, and how we live each day.
- Let's ask God to help us not only understand the Gospel more deeply, but to be captivated by it. Let's invite His love to take hold of our hearts and lead us to live with joyful surrender, bold faith, and overflowing gratitude.