

Discussion Guide Easter 2025 PARTICIPANT GUIDE

"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]

ENGAGE & CONNECT

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

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

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

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

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

Romans 8:28-39

- 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!
- 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?
- 3. In v. 31–32, how does Paul use logic to strengthen our confidence in God?
- 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?
- 5. What's the danger of stopping at "God has a plan" without embracing the "good" promised in v. 28?
- 6. How does the Gospel logic challenge the world's logic about power, approval, and comfort?
- 7. Where in your life do you need to "preach the Gospel to your circumstances" this week?
- 8. What does it mean for you personally to be "more than a conqueror" in your present season of life?

- 9. How can we become a community that consistently reminds each other of the logic and love of the Gospel in hard times?
- 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?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

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?

PRAYER FOCUS

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.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Romans Ch. 8 Commentary & Unbreakable
 - Use these for background and encouragement before your group gathers.
- What Will You Do With Easter?
 - This would be a good resource to use after your group gathers.