



Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions

Topic: *Questioning the Presence of God*

Text: Romans 8:18-30

Service Date: November 9, 2025

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

Getting Started

- Tri-Village is currently in a period of 40 Days of Prayer. Currently, how have you sensed or seen God work in either your life or the life of the church?

Sermon Discussion

- Rusty George's story about his daughters praying for a puppy raises the question of how prayer "works." Have you ever prayed for something that didn't happen the way you hoped? How did that affect your view of God?
- Paul Snoddy noted in the sermon, "Unanswered prayer does not mean an absent God." How easy or hard is that truth for you to believe when you're in a season of silence from God?
- Why do you think many people hesitate to be honest with God about their pain or frustration in prayer?
- The Apostle Paul wrote that creation "was subjected to frustration" (Romans 8:20). What kinds of frustrations in your life right now could become invitations to deeper prayer rather than reasons to give up?
- In her devotional *Pressing through the Pain*, Lysa TerKeurst wrote, "Pain is the invitation for God to move in and replace our faltering strength with His." What would it look like for you to "invite God's closeness" in your pain this week?
- Romans 8:24 says, "Hope that is seen is no hope at all." What are you currently hoping for that you can't yet see? How does faith (as mentioned in Hebrews 11:1) play a part of this process?
- How does looking toward eternity—rather than just your current situation—change the way you pray?
- The sermon shared the line: "A YES from God blesses you. A NO from God protects you. WAITING on God prepares you." Which of those three is hardest for you to accept right now, and why?

- Romans 8:26 says the Spirit “intercedes for us through wordless groans.” When have you experienced a moment of prayer where you had no words? How did God meet you in that weakness?
- “Prayer is not powered by our ability to say the right words, but by the Spirit who knows the heart.” How does that truth reshape how you think about your prayer life?
- Jesus said, “Ask, seek, and knock.” Which of those three feels most natural to you, and which one do you need to practice more persistently?
- Romans 8:28 is often quoted, but it can feel hard to believe in moments of disappointment. How can we hold on to God’s goodness when our prayers seem unanswered?
- George Müller’s story and Erin Miller’s testimony both show faith through waiting. How have you seen God use a “no,” “slow,” or “grow” answer to ultimately bring something better than what you first prayed for?

This Week’s Action Response

- The sermon said, “God does not waste any pain you might be experiencing right now.” What might God be doing *in you* through a current waiting or “no” answer? How would you like your group to pray for you?

Upcoming Impact Opportunities (tri-village.org/events)

- Heartbeats for Life Banquet- Thurs. Nov. 6 or Fri., Nov. 7 (7pm); hbfl.us (under “Events”)
- Caroling at Nursing Homes- Wed., Dec. 3, 5:30-7pm

40 Days of Prayer (tri-village.org/40daysofprayer) October 27 – December 5

Available Prayer Space- Every Monday during the 40 Days of Prayer, the Sanctuary will be open from 7am to 7pm. There will be no set agenda, just a place where you can come and quiet your heart while you pray.

Have a way that God has worked recently through prayer? Visit tri-village.org/40daysofprayer and share your story.