

Greetings and welcome to Home Group notes. There are two parts to these notes, “Your time” and “Group time.” The first is an opportunity for you to learn from God’s Word as you read, listen, and learn. The second part is for when you meet for a time to share and encourage each other.

YOUR TIME OF LISTENING IN GOD’S WORD

The following questions are for us to consider before we meet together in our community group. Reading the passage and considering the questions will help us learn from God and be prepared to discuss and share together.

In this week’s passage, we have arrived at God’s unlimited storehouse of hope! The Greek word translated as “hope” is “elpis.” Unlike our English word which gets confused with ‘wishful thinking,’ this word means “confidence and an inner assurance.” Having hope means living with deep confidence of our future and assurance that God has an unstoppable plan that includes us.

Romans chapter eight is answering this question: Since Jesus has made a way for us to be forgiven (by faith in Him) and given us His righteousness, why am I still struggling with sin, suffering from the outside, and struggling in this broken world? And, who will deliver us from this problem of sin, brokenness, and fear of the future?

The answer in chapter eight comes in two parts:

Part One (last week): God has promised us that if we are in Christ, there is no condemnation. He has given us the Holy Spirit who blesses us with God’s indwelling presence, placed us in His family, given us strength to overcome and put sin to death. We have hope!

Part Two is found in Romans 8:18-39. Read through it two times before starting to answer the questions below.

1. What are your first impressions? What words or ideas or statements stand out to you? What did you feel?
2. Look back through (vs.18-39) and write below some of the words that represent pain, suffering, etc. (There are many)
3. Notice the ways that God has and is blessing us in His love, promises, and assurances. Make a list of at least five specific ways that He has blessed and is blessing us to get through to be with Him in glory.
4. Reflection: When you think of your own suffering (from sin or outside caused), which of God’s promises bring you hope? (Perhaps read back through again.)

GROUP TIME: DISCUSSION OF APPLICATION FROM GOD'S WORD

Some of the words found in this passage speak to things that we might all feel at times: sufferings, bondage, pains, groaning, condemned, fear of death, and distress.

Which of these (or other's listed in the passage) have you felt? When? Why?

How does God want these promises to affect our present lives? What would that look like?

According to the many things that God does in this passage, which specific things raise up hope in you? What helps you walk through your days with hope?

Think of those who are without Christ as Savior. What hope would they have? What might they think about the future or how to see suffering in this life?

1 Peter was written to people who were experiencing distress and suffering. 3:15 reads, "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

What does this tell us about our role in the lives of people without real hope? What might this look like?

Let's read out loud together God's final word about our future in 8:38-39:

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

When we read what God has done for us, it should call up praise and thanksgiving. Share one specific thing in this passage for which you want to give God praise.

Feel like singing?

How about "Living Hope" by Phil Wickham

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-1fwZtKJSM&list=RDu-1fwZtKJSM&start_radio=1

Or, "Yet not I" by CityAlight

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zundjUFazfg&list=RDzundjUFazfg&start_radio=1

