

# The Facilitator

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Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

4/15/18

**Text: Romans 8:18-25 (ESV)**

**Title: Hope in the Midst of Suffering**

**Teacher: Josh Floyd**

## **Surrender through Prayer:**

*Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.*

## **Engage with the Sermon**

*Read the passage together*

In his sermon, Josh led us through Romans 8 as we looked at how the reality suffering in the world and in our lives because of the effects of sin and brokenness. As we saw creation itself is groaning in the suffering that is and has been inflicted by sin. Josh said, death (and other suffering and effects of the fall) are not good things; they are an enemy and should never be called good. We should never call evil “good”. As we see from the number of Psalms and other places in scripture, it’s not only okay to lament our suffering to God, but it is good and healthy to do so. The beauty of the gospel is not that we will not suffer in this life, but instead, that when we do, we suffer with the hope of a greater promise in God’s restoration of all things. Because of the work of Jesus we can both lament in our suffering, **and** hold on to a greater hope for God to restore all things, knowing that he is working all things, even evil things, for good to those who love Him.

- ***What struck you about this message on suffering?***

## **Reflection Questions:**

1. *Josh said there are three kinds of lamenting that we do that are counter to the message of the gospel.*
  1. *“Naive Optimism” (High Hope/Low Lament) uses phrases like “it get’s better”, “happiness is a choice”, and “this could be a good thing”.*
  2. *“Detached Stoicism” (Low Hope/Low Lament): stuff your emotions, pull yourself up by your bootstraps.*
  3. *“Unrelenting Despair” (Low Hope/High Lament): This person is just filled with pain. They will either move toward people in anger/frustration, or away from people in loneliness.*

- ***How were you taught to handle grief and suffering in your life?***
- ***What keeps you from lamenting, or from having hope?***

2. *As Josh said, we do not and should not groan alone, we lament and live alongside a community of believers. We cannot carry other’s burden for them or relieve their pain, but we can carry it alongside them and help to carry them through suffering.*

- ***How have you experienced (or lacked) community surrounding you in times of great suffering?***
- ***Who are the people you are called to suffer alongside, and who do you know that’s still lacking that community?***

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## **WORSHIP AND PRAYER:**

### **A.C.T.S.**

*(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)*

**1. ADORATION** *(The Father)*

***Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions***

**2. CONFESSION** *(Me)*

***Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited***

**3. THANKSGIVING** *(Jesus)*

***Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)***

**4. SUPPLICATION** *(Holy Spirit)*

***Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways***

**5. Prepare for Gospel Community** *(My Neighbor)*

***Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.***

### **Prayer Items**

- 1. Worship God for His goodness as our Priest and Savior in that He hears our groaning, never leaves us alone and meets us in our suffering.*
- 2. How have you lived like you were entitled to a stress-free, drama-free or pain-free life? Where have you gotten angry at God at the first sign of inconvenience, unmet longing or suffering in your life? Confess ways in which you have doubted His goodness, His power or simply lost hope in the face of suffering.*
- 3. Give thanks to God for the ways in which He grows us through suffering, identifies with us through Christ's own sufferings and promises us a future glory that we will enjoy as Christ returns, when suffering is completely done away with as the new heavens and new earth are brought about!*
- 4. Who do you know that is in a season of suffering and could use your presence, prayers and perspective? Pray that the Lord would comfort and encourage them in their time of trial. Pray that the Lord would give you wisdom for the best way to love them.*
- 5. Ask the Lord to increase your faith when you are encountering disappointments, unmet expectations, hurt feelings, chronic pain and other difficult life circumstances. Remember that these present sufferings are not the end of the story, and these pains cannot outweigh the glory we will have in Christ! Pray that even in the most difficult of circumstances you are able to lament with hope in Jesus!*