

Week of July 19, 2020

Romans 8:12-25 (NRSV)

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--

¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"

¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;

²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

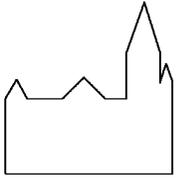
²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now;

²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. How detailed are your plans when you plan a vacation? What do you do to prepare? What do you leave to chance?
- B. Where do you see yourself in five years? What do you hope for?

Bible Study Questions:

1. What do you think Paul means by living "according to the flesh"?
2. In verse 17, what do you think it means to be "heirs of God"? What do we "inherit" as children of God?
3. How do you relate to verse 18's reference to the "sufferings of this present time"? What was Paul referring to then? What does that phrase mean to you now? Do you envision a "glory that is about to be revealed to us"?
4. What does the imagery of "labor pains" mean for you? How do you see "labor pains" – as a metaphor – at work in the world today?
5. Where do you find hope today? Is your hope based on what you can see, or do you hope for what is unseen?
6. What level of patience do you have with the situation we find ourselves in? What helps you cope? Do you have a vision for what lies beyond our problems?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers for hope