

TALK IT OVER

Read Romans 8 (Passage is on 2nd page. This is from NLT. Feel free to use or read from your own Bible/app). Once you've read the passage ask these questions:

- What new thing did you discover in the story that you did not know before?
- What did you learn about people? (Why do people leave the doors of emotional baggage open? Why do we all struggle with the negativity that comes from those open doors? Why is it so easy to listen to the lies and so difficult to hear the truth? What does it say about humanity that Paul was addressing this with them and it still resonates with us? When Paul talk about sin and sin nature, sometimes he means just the overall brokenness around us. How does that play into our emotional baggage?)
- What did you learn about God? (Joe brought out 3 truths from Romans 8: In Christ we are forgiven & freed, victorious and secure. What does that tell you about God? What does that say about how God sees us in Christ? Why do you think Paul used such legal/courtroom language? Joe stressed the point Paul made in v. 31 that God is for you. How does that make you feel? Does it change any thoughts about God for you?)
- What will you take away from this discussion? (What has God revealed to you? Are you carrying around emotional baggage? Why do you think you're still carrying it around? Why have you left that door open?)
- What will you do with what you have learned? (We all deal with those open doors of emotional baggage. No one walks through life unscarred. If you are still carrying emotional baggage are you willing to share it now? What steps do you need to take let that go? To close that door? Joe said that once he confronted his person he felt that freedom talked about in Romans 8. How can we help you close that negative emotion door so that your prison door can be opened?)
- Is there anything else you wanted to share that we didn't hit in this discussion? (Remind them to sign up for the next What Next class AND **ENCOURAGE YOUR SMALL GROUPS TO SERVE AT FAMILY FEST TOGETHER. THIS IS AN AWESOME OPPORTUNITY TO NOT ONLY HAVE FUN BUT TO LOVE ON OUR CITY! LAST YEAR WE HAD 2000+ PEOPLE COME AND PARTY WITH US. SIGN UP LINK: [HTTPS://SHIFT-CHURCH.CCBCHURCH.COM/GOTO/FORMS/74/RESPONSES/NEW](https://shift-church.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/74/responses/new))**
- Next week make sure to read Isaiah 61. Think through the questions we ask weekly as you read.

Make sure to check in with your SG this week. How can you pray for them? This is where the discipleship aspect comes in. Work towards identifying your 3 (that you can really pour into) and then your 1 (that person that will replicate what you're doing now). Take a few minutes each day and make a text or phone call to everyone in the group.

TALK IT OVER

Make sure to read ahead of time and either retell the story or have someone (multiple people) help you retelling the story. Make sure to use your update with points from Brad's sermon.

Romans 8

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² And because you belong to him, the power^[a] of the life-giving Spirit has freed you^[b] from the power of sin that leads to death. ³ The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature.^[c] So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. ⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. ⁷ For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. ⁸ That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

⁹ But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) ¹⁰ And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life^[d] because you have been made right with God. ¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

¹² Therefore, dear brothers and sisters,^[e] you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature,^[f] you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children^[g] of God.

¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children.^[h] Now we call him, "Abba, Father."^[i] ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷ And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. ¹⁹ For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children,^[j] including the new bodies he has promised us. ²⁴ We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope^[k] for it. ²⁵ But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

TALK IT OVER

²⁶ And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷ And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers^[l] in harmony with God's own will. ²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together^[m] for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. ²⁹ For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn^[n] among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

³¹ What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at

God's right hand, pleading for us.

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep."^[o]) ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[p] neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.