

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Waiting Eagerly**

ROMANS 8:23

OBSERVE, INTERPRET & APPLY // ROMANS 8:18-25

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Overview/Big Idea: In the midst of present suffering, we're called to wait eagerly as we hope in the fullness of our redemption, at which time we'll enjoy our resurrected Savior forever.

1. Read Romans 8:18-25.
 2. Summarize the main idea of this passage in a sentence to two. How does this passage map on to our current situation?
 3. In verse 18, Paul mentions "the present sufferings of this time." What is he referring to with this phrase? How does this apply to us today?
 4. What does Paul mean when he writes that these present sufferings are "not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us"? Is he minimizing the hardships with face? What is the "glory that is to be revealed to us"?
 5. In verse 19, what does it mean that creation "waits with eager longing"? What is creation waiting for?
 6. In verse 23, Paul makes the connection to creation groaning and us doing the same. What does this tell us about the presence of suffering in the world?
 7. Who are those who "have the firstfruits of the Spirit"? What does Paul mean when he says we "have the firstfruits of the Spirit"? How should this inform the way we suffer?
 8. What does it mean to "groan inwardly"? What might this look like for us?
 9. What does it mean to "wait eagerly"? What might this look like for us? Why is waiting eagerly hard for us? How does our church family help us wait eagerly in ways we can't do by ourselves?
 10. In verse 23, Paul says we are waiting eagerly for "adoption as sons." However, in verse 15 he says we have already received adoption. What does Paul mean here in verse 23?
 11. How is the "redemption of our bodies" related to the fullness of our adoption as sons?
 12. In verse 24, Paul says, "For in this hope we were saved." What is this hope? Is this the hope that typically comes to mind when we think about salvation?
 13. In verse 25, we're called to "hope for what we do not see...wait for it with patience." What is Paul talking about here? How does Easter Sunday, and the gospel message every Sunday, help us do this hope in what we can see patiently?
- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
 - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: How has our current crisis grown your longing for heaven? Are you waiting eagerly?