

Life Group Discussion Guide

Grief and Gratitude

April 19

LEADER NOTES

Life Groups have been meeting online for several weeks now, and you've probably noticed the novelty wearing off. Consider trying something new in your group meeting this week. That may be an opening icebreaker game, a new form of prayer, or playing a worship song that your group can sing together. Keeping your group engaged online is challenging, but adding a new element can help your group have fun and stay focused.

This week, Pastor Jeremy challenged us to live in the hope of Jesus and recognize the things we're grateful for. Living in hope means recognizing there is an end to this season, but also choosing to be grateful for what we have now.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Romans 8:18-25 (NLT)

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 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 for it. ²⁵ But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

LOOK UP

This week's text centers on the idea that we are waiting along with all of creation for what is to come. Why would God have us wait in this present age rather than fulfilling all of his promises now?

LOOK AROUND

What do you find yourself "waiting eagerly" for in this season?

Verse 23 of this week's text states that believers "have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory". How have you experienced the Holy Spirit in your life?

Do you find it more difficult to be patient or confident?

LOOK AHEAD

How could you practice patience and confidence in your current context?

Pastor Jeremy's action step for this week is naming the gratitude you feel right now. Share one thing you are grateful for with your group.

PRAYER