

# Romans 8: 18-25

## Working and waiting in a groaning world



Think about and discuss one or two questions from each section.

### The text – Romans 8:18-25

1. Read Romans 8:18-25. Paul has written about “sufferings” and “glory” in Romans 8:17. Connect this passage (8:18-25) with Paul’s words in 8:17. Why does he now write about the creation in quite some detail?
2. What is the future of the creation in 8:19-22?
3. What is the future of the children of God in 8:23-25?
4. “Hope” is one of the most important words in the passage. What is the content of our hope?

### The Scriptures – Romans 8:18-25 as a portion of the Scriptures

5. The creation has been subjected to “frustration” or “futility”. This is an important word that echoes much of the teaching in the book of Ecclesiastes. Read and discuss Ecclesiastes 1:1-11. What is so frustrating to the ancient teacher in this passage of Scripture?
6. Old Testament prophets envisaged a glorious future for the world. Read and enjoy the words of Isaiah 11:1-9.
7. There are many Scriptures about “first fruits”. See for example, Exodus 23:19. What are the first fruits to which Paul refers in this passage (8:23). What fruits are yet to come?

### Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Romans 8:18-25 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. Paul uses four images for the age in which we live: frustrated, enslaved, waiting, groaning in child-birth. Do you find these helpful? Is this how you think about the world?
9. How are you at waiting? Hoping? Persevering? How can we encourage and support you?