Romans 8: 18-30

The text – Romans 8: 18-30

1. Read Romans 8:18-30. What do you think Paul is thinking of when he speaks of sufferings in 8:18? What light do chapters 7 and 8 shed on Paul's thoughts?

2. Verse 20 says that 'the creation was subject to futility.' In what sense is creation subject to futility? How does the rest of this passage unpack the idea of futility?

3. Paul suggests that creation is eagerly expecting two things: the revealing of the children of God and freedom from decay. How is the revealing of God's children connected to creation's restoration?

4. What image is Paul presenting in verses 22 and 23? What is the relationship between hope and pain in this image?

5. Why do you think groaning is so important for God's people?

6. What does Paul say that we, as God's people, are waiting for? What do you think this means?

7. In verse 26, Paul outlines the Spirit's involvement in hope. What role does the Spirit play In hope here? How is this a comfort?

8. In verses 28-30, Paul explains the foundation of hope. How are these words a comfort and assurance for hope?

The Scriptures – Romans 8: 18-30 as a portion of the Scriptures

9. Ecclesiastes is a book in the Old Testament that is deeply concerned with the groaning of creation. Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-11. How is the groaning of life described here? Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. What hints of hope do we see here?

10. God's plan has always been working towards the restoration of the whole creation and the unifying of heaven and earth. Read Isaiah 65:17-25. What images of restoration are given in this section of scripture? How do these images relate to Romans 8:18-30?

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Romans 8: 18-30 as a portion of the Scriptures

11. Where do you experience and observe the groaning of creation?

12. How has this passage challenged you to re-imagine God's plan for his whole creation?

13. How have you been challenged to respond to this section of God's word? How might hope shape your life in the present?