

Part 4: Hope Beyond Suffering

ROMANS 8:18-25

Sunday, December 15, 2024 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Bob Blahnik

Biblical Hope is the confident assurance that God will keep every promise he has made.

1. Suffering is **TEMPORARY**. (v. 18)

2. Suffering is **UNIVERSAL**. (v. 19-22)

3. Suffering is **OVERCOME THROUGH HOPE**. (v. 23-25)

↓ **Big Idea: THERE IS HOPE BEYOND SUFFERING!**



Para Mi Mamá – A Letter to My Birth Mother
<https://vimeo.com/109326286>



Text us at **833-271-8805**.
— Text **APP** to get our app.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, “**Pray for...**” followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever’s going on and someone will be in touch via text.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group’s study. If you’re interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here’s a *random* question to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer:

If you could bring one inanimate object to life, what would it be and why?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn’t gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. **Read Romans 8:18-25.** Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? — *Discuss it with your group before moving on.*
2. What a difference it makes to have hope. In fact, it is almost impossible to keep living without it. As followers of Jesus, we can always have hope, despite what we’re going through. What powerful reminder does **Matthew 28:1-7** give that can help us have hope this Christmas?
3. We all react differently to “broken” or suffering people, partly because we are all broken to some degree ourselves. Some of us want to seek out and help every broken person, while others avoid them like the plague. As you read through the following scenarios, jot down what your most natural response would be to that situation.

A family member broke off their unhealthy relationship you’d warned them about years ago and now wants to talk with you about it.

A friend who invests in risky stocks loses all his money.






(Study Guide continues on back panel...)



Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR OUTCOMES This is who we hope you grow to *become* at Wawasee Bible...

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...

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1 | Receiving From God. Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?
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2 | Responding To God. How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?
- 
3 | Receiving From Others. Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
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4 | Moving Toward Others. How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)
- 
5 | Going to those Far from God. How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: Romans 8:24-28 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

²⁴ For in this **hope** we were **saved**. Now **hope** that is **seen** is not **hope**. For who **hopes** for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we **hope** for what we do not see, we **wait** for it with **patience**. ²⁶ **Likewise** the **Spirit** helps us in our **weakness**. For we do not **know** what to **pray** for as we ought, but the **Spirit** himself **intercedes** for us with **groanings** too **deep** for **words**. ²⁷ And he who **searches hearts** **knows** what is the **mind** of the **Spirit**, because the **Spirit** **intercedes** for the **saints** **according** to the will of God. ²⁸ And we **know** that for those who **love** God all **things** work **together** for **good**, for those who are **called** **according** to his **purpose**.

C P A T I E N C E E G L E
 T M C B B E L K N O W I I
 G A C A L L E D P S E K W
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life groups Study Guide (continued)

Someone in your Life Group has an injury or is in a trial you've also had and is complaining about it.

You know a mother who's had her children taken by Child Protective Services.

- How could the verses below help someone who was struggling to help others in the scenarios given or any other areas of brokenness?

Matthew 7:1-2 1 Peter 4:8-11 Galatians 6:1-5

- Can you think of any personal brokenness that pops up occasionally or that keeps you from fully being able to help others?

4. We have a God who wants to meet us in our suffering. While it may not always be the type of healing we're praying for, we have a God who consistently wants to heal his people according to his plan. What sort of healing do you see in the following verses and what does that teach us about God's plan of healing in our lives?

James 5:13-16 Psalm 107:17-22 Revelation 21:1-5

- Can you think of any things (addictions, hurts, injuries, relationship issues, etc.) that God is healing in your life or in the life of someone you know?

5. How would you like to change in how you respond to your own suffering and/or the suffering of others over the coming weeks?

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. **Divide into separate groups of men and women.** Feel free to share requests, just be sure each person gets prayed for.

This week's Study Guide is adapted from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

Wawasee Community Bible Church

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HOPE UNFOLDING

Sunday, December 15, 2024

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ROMANS 8:18-25

PART 4



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<https://wawasee.today>