

Small Group Guide

THE MOTIVATING POWER OF OUR FUTURE HOPE OF GLORY

The Church at Brook Hills,

B. Taylor

July 22, 2012

Romans 8:31-39

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to train your group into potential disciple-makers and lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word with His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

Relate . . .

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

Welcome—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

Review—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. (The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time.) Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to review the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

Prayer—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.

Reflect . . .

Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications for our lives. (As a training tool, leaders might want to have various members summarize the teachings in their own words each week sharing how they think the Scripture applied to the original hearers and how the principles apply to us today.)

Message Outline

5 truths for God's people on their journey to glory ...

- (31) Because God is our Sovereign Protector, all of our enemies will fail.
 - If God is for us...
 - Then nothing can successfully oppose us
- (32) Because God is our Supreme Provider, all of our needs will be met.
 - If we can trust Him with the greater...
 - Our need for provision of sin.
 - Then we can trust Him with the lesser...
 - Our need for perseverance in difficulties.
- (33) Because of God's ultimate ruling, we will never be found guilty.
 - If we have been united in Christ...
 - By grace, through faith, in Jesus Christ
 - Then God has justified us
 - He has removed our rebellion
 - He has imparted Christ's righteousness
- (34) Because of God's saving work in Christ for us, we will never be condemned.

Small Group Guide

THE MOTIVATING POWER OF OUR FUTURE HOPE OF GLORY

The Church at Brook Hills,

B. Taylor

July 22, 2012

Romans 8:31-39

- *If* God accomplished our salvation for us
 - Christ has died for us
 - Christ was raised from the dead
 - Christ ascended to heaven
 - Christ intercedes for His people
- *Then* our enemies cannot condemn us
- (35-39) Because of God's love in Christ for us, our hope of glory is certain.
 - *If* there is nothing to separate us
 - Not any state of being
 - Not any created being
 - Not any dimension of time
 - Not any dimension of space
 - Not anything in all of creation
 - *Then* we can freely lose our lives for the sake of His glory among the nations.

How then shall we respond?

- Let us *not* cowardly retreat...
 - We should not shrink back in fear.
- Rather, let us confidently risk it all.
 - We should step forward in faith.

Message Summary

The work of Christ has insured that those who trust in Him for salvation will be brought assuredly to rest in glory. Paul understood that the journey to glory, however, is not one that is assuredly comforting or easy. In fact, Scripture is full of reminders that a life of following God is often wracked with hardships, challenges, and suffering. The hope of an assured glory provides believers with motivation in the face of such pain and suffering. God's character and His work for us provides truth that He always acts for the good of those who trust in Him and are living according to His purpose. God's love for His people is unending, His character unchanging; and His power supreme and sovereign. Nothing is able to separate God from His children.

Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help review the application of God's Word to our Head (What does God want me to know?), to our Heart (What does God want me to desire/value?), and to our Hands (What does God want me to do?).

- Knowing that Paul had many enemies, including those who wanted to kill him, when he asked the question in verse 31 "who can be against us?" did he mean that believers have no opposition? How does the first half of the question, "if God is for us", influence our understanding of opposition to the Christian?
- How can we trust God's sovereignty regarding protection and provision in the face of real opposition, including suffering and death?
- What does a life that fully trusts God in all things look like? How is it full of freedom instead of slavery to fear?
- How might our typically self-centered view of resources and protection falsely influence our eternal understanding of God's sovereign protection and supreme provision?
- Paul rightly noted that God did not spare His own Son from suffering and death—and that for our sake. If Christ's death was for our good, how does that truth influence our conviction that all things God allows or decrees in our lives are for our good?
- What attitudes and priorities need to change in order for us to believe that even pain is for our good?
- How can we use times of suffering to be a witness of God's goodness and mercy?
- According to this passage, there is nothing that can separate a true believer from God. How do we have a healthy balance between honest self-examination of spiritual fruit and confidence in the sure work of Christ in our lives?
- How did Paul link the ideas of martyrdom/suffering and the love of Christ?

Small Group Guide

THE MOTIVATING POWER OF OUR FUTURE HOPE OF GLORY

The Church at Brook Hills,

B. Taylor

July 22, 2012

Romans 8:31-39

- What does his encouragement that Christ-followers, even in death, are “more than conquerors” indicate about the purpose of God and the glory that awaits all who place their faith in Him?
- What is the primary focus in this passage? How does that focus affect the way that we view our salvation?
- How can we use our freedom in the assurance of Christ's love and God's sovereignty in our lives to live unhindered for the sake of the gospel?
- What “chains” are holding us back from living confidently in God's love and in His call? What is preventing us from removing those chains?

Respond . . .

Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of today's study. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from this study?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from this study, what does God want you to desire/value?
- How do your values need to change to align with His values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this study?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?
- What is going to be the most difficult aspect of this study to personally apply?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength to apply these truths, for personal needs, for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel, and for our weekly prayer focus as a church..

Weekly Prayer Focus ... (from our worship guide)

- *For Our Lives: In light of our text this week, pray that we will live knowing no one can stand against us since God is with us. Thank him for the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, through whom we have salvation. Praise God for his love for us and confess your love for him. Pray for perseverance through any trouble we may face knowing we are more than conquerors. Praise God that nothing can separate us from his love found in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- *For Our City: This week we are praying for Mt. Mariah Baptist Church, Gate City, Dr. Darryl Lee, Pastor. We are also praying for the ministry of King's Home, which includes both King's Ranch and Hannah Homes. Their mission is to serve Christ by serving youth, women, and at-risk mothers and children and by providing them with refuge and help from abuse, homelessness, and other difficult circumstances.*
- *For Our World: This week we are praying for Short-Term teams serving in India and Cuba. We are also praying for Brook Hills Member Organization, One Way Ministries. One Way is an organization run by Brook Hills members, JT and Sheryl Turner, that exists to reach impoverished, desperate and forgotten people groups with the gospel of Jesus Christ. They serve in North America, South America and Africa. To find out more about One Way visit 1wayministries.org.*