

## WEEK 7

TO READ IN THE BOOK: CHAPTER 10, THE JESUS FOCUS  
CHAPTER 11, GROANING

### BIBLE STUDY: ROMANS 8:22-30

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Verse 23 says that we “groan inwardly” as we wait for our redemption. What do you think it means to “groan inwardly”? Do you think of this groaning as a godly or ungodly thing? When was the last time you did something like this?

The first paragraph of this passage is largely about hope. Verse 25 relates hope with “waiting.” Is it the waiting that makes hope so difficult? Or is it something else? What makes hope difficult for you?

Verse 28 is one of those famous verses that has made it onto a lot of key chains, bookmarks, and cross stitch things. What would Joseph have thought about this verse when he was sitting in prison? What about Paul when he was falsely accused or shipwrecked? What do you think this verse means?

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHAPTERS 10 AND 11

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What we fear and love will rule and shape our lives. Said another way, the fear and love that rules your heart will shape your life.

Being ungodly is not just about committing a certain list of sins. Being ungodly is also about looking for fulfillment outside of God.

We were designed to find satisfaction in God alone. The fact that money, approval, success, security, and sex don't satisfy us completely says more about the glory of the human being than it does about the inadequacy of these things. Human beings simply have more *capacity* than these things can fill.

When we are living for God's kingdom, there should be a sense of dissatisfaction with the way things are in this world.

Though God has made all things for his glory and our enjoyment, nothing created was meant to become the main object of our heart's desire. If it does, we are settling for much less than God intended for us.

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

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What are some areas or things you feel satisfied with?

What are some areas or things you are dissatisfied with?

Is there a place for dissatisfaction in the life of a Christian?

When you look at your life, which of the following have come through for you (i.e. given you what you desire): money, approval, success, security, sex?

Do you think that you, as well as all other human beings, have more *capacity* than the above things can fill?

What is one decision you made this past week based on fear? What about one decision you made based on the fear of the Lord?

What does it mean to be ungodly?

Put an x on the continuums below.

How is your desire to go and be with God (i.e. talk with God, read Scripture, gaze upon his beauty)?

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Little Lots

How is your desire for spiritual growth?

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Little Lots

How is your sorrow toward the sin and suffering in the world?

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Little Lots

How deep are your closest relationships?

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Little Lots

Many of the psalms are great examples of the wrestling of someone who experiences both satisfaction in God and dissatisfaction with the way things are in the world. Take the words of one of the following psalms and write your own version of that psalm, personalizing it to your circumstances and your life. Psalms to model: 6, 13, 27, 31, 35, 42, 55, 77.