

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

Facilitator: Encourage your members to **BRING THEIR BIBLES** and use them during Connect Group.

CONNECT Group study questions for April 29, 2018

Title: Grief Before Glory—Romans 8:18-27 (NASB)

Read: Romans 8:18-27

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it. 26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Review: Read the notes from Pastor Peppy's lesson, *Grief Before Glory* Share what God revealed to you from his message.

Facilitator: Group members may have their own questions or have difficulty understanding the Scripture passages we are studying. Encourage them to jot down their queries and submit them to you. If you send them to me by return email, I'll see they receive a response from Pastor Peppy or an elder.

Question: Paul tells us there is no comparison between the suffering of this life and the glory that is to be revealed to us. But suffering we know and the glory to be revealed we hope for.

How does our faith in the hope of future glory affect the suffering we experience in the present? Does it lessen our suffering? Does it make suffering more bearable?

Read: Romans 5:3-4; James 1:2-4, 12; 1 Peter 4:12-13

Question: Pastor Peppy asked the question: “Why is creation groaning?”
The answer: “Sin.”

Whose sin is responsible for creation groaning?

When we look upon the magnificence of creation from the stars of the universe to the intricate design of a single-celled organism, how can we say all of creation is subjected to futility and enslaved to corruption?

Read: Genesis 3:1-18

Question: Pastor Peppy outlined “the anatomy of sin” in verses 1-14 of Genesis 3: Doubt, Denial, Deception, Death, and Decay.

Can you identify this same pattern as the anatomy of sin today? **Facilitator:** Suggest they apply the anatomy of sin to sins such as sexual immorality, gluttony, etc.

Read: Exodus 20:1-17

As you read the commandments, discuss how disobeying each one can follow a pattern of Doubt, Denial and Deception, ending in Death and Decay.

Question: As consequences for sin, Adam suffered the loss of his position, his purity and his peace.

On this side of heaven, can we find at least some restoration from Adam’s loss? **Read:** Ephesians 2:1-6; Romans 6:5-6; John 14:27.

Share with the group: Was there a time when you were unable or didn’t know how to pray about your suffering, except to rely on the Holy Spirit to intercede for you? How did God answer?