

## Study Guide

Lenten Sermon Series: Case for Hope

Week 5 – Exhibit E: Assurance

Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup>

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### Review

Romans 8 begins with one of the most encouraging verses in all scripture. For those who are in Christ no longer need to fear condemnation. Sometimes we struggle to believe the story of God's freedom in us. The Spirit intercedes and comes to dwell in us to renew our hope in Jesus Christ in our lives.

### Introduction

This Paul tells us that we don't have to face things on our own, but we have an advocate in our corner. Jesus has experienced the trials we will face, and has emerged victorious. Paul reminds us using a series of powerful questions and answers that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.

**Read:** Romans 8:18-39

### Pray

Lord it is for freedom that you have set us free. Help me to consider those things that still have power over our lives. Let me look to you Jesus and see the one with whom we died to sin, and the one in whom we are given the gift of freedom. Help me to live into the freedom you've already given. Amen.

### Discussion

1. Think of a time in your life when you were going through a challenging spell, and you had someone by your side to help. Now think of a time when you felt alone in facing something difficult. How much different was it to have someone with you?
2. Verse 28 Paul says that "In all things God works for the good of those who loves him." How does this impact your view of the choices you make in your life?
3. Read 2 Kings 6:8-19 and Genesis 37:12-28. Consider the stories of Joseph being sold into slavery in Egypt and eventually rising to second in command, and Elisha's prayer for the Israelites at Dothan. How is God working for the good of these two men? What does it say about our lives?
4. Our choices matter. Consider how the choices you've made in the past, think about how God has used them to bring about His good plan in your life.

### Application

On Sunday Pastor Jonathan wondered: "How did we get here?" Then listed a series of decisions made that led us to Wabash. Think back on your life and try and see how God used your choices to bring about God's good purposes in your life.

### Prayer

Jesus, thank you for the length, the height, the depth, the expanses you went to in showing your love for us. Help us to know that your highest aim for our lives is for our good. As we make our choices, remind us that you are weaving—even our poor choices—into an intricate tapestry of grace. Give us the confidence this week to know that there is nothing that can separate us from your love...ever. Amen