



# THRIVE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP STUDY GUIDE | SERIES: SILVER LININGS

TITLE: HOPE

SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 8.18-30

## One Thing Follow-up:

When everyone else panics, followers of Jesus keep their heads. No, we don't have it all figured out. No, we're not immune to moments of weakness. But, in light of who God is, we: (1) put the problem in the proper perspective; (2) avoid all extremes; and (3) do the good before us, no matter what.

Q. How did this message help you last week?

## Opening

*Every cloud has a silver lining.* We've heard this phrase countless times. It means, every difficult situation or setback contains potential for a good outcome. By searching for positives in difficult or confusing circumstances, we not only begin to experience more peace, we gain the ability to solve any parts of the problem within our control and accept the parts beyond our control.

## Series Review:

We begin a new series this week that will challenge us to find the silver linings during difficult situations or setbacks. We start in the book of Romans. This beautiful, and sometimes complex, book was written by an early church leader named Paul. Here we find the reason for hope in the midst of suffering.

## Reviewing the Message

Q. Can you think of a struggle in your life that has ended with a silver lining?

Q. How has God used a difficult situation to open your eyes to His goodness and grace?

### Read Romans 8:28

We examined four truths that form a foundation of hope. (1) You are created and loved by God; (2) You are valuable to Him; (3) God knows what's happening in your life; (4) He is working to use what you, and others around you, are going through to show you more of His goodness or to share more of his grace with you.

Q. Which of these truths stand out to you? Why?

### Read Romans 8:18-21

We are in a much bigger story than just the one about ourselves.

When you become frustrated how do you respond to it? What determines how you respond?

#### 4 Views of the World

1. **The Cyclical View:** Believing that we are caught in an unending **cycle**. The concepts of karma and reincarnation would fit into this view.
2. **The Chaotic View:** Believes that there is **no order or purpose** to life.
3. **The Linear View:** Opposite from the Cyclic and Chaotic and believes that everything is **progress**. This is a simplistic view that science, technology, or government will make the situation better.
4. **The Christian View:** There are cycles, there are moments of chaos, confusion, and difficulty. **God is taking history somewhere.**

Q. Which view becomes your default in stressful times? Why?

Q. How do these verses help us understand the Christian view?

#### **Read Romans 8:22-27**

Q. Are all cries of pain bad? Why does Paul use “labor pains” as his description?

Q. As a child of God, how does the promise of the Holy Spirit's intercession for comfort you?

#### **Read John 1:12 and Ephesians 1:13**

Q. According to these verses, what makes a person a child of God?

Q. Christians will suffer just like the rest of creation, so where is our hope found?

Q. Have you seen God working even through all that is going on right now? In what ways?

### **Living It Out Application**

Q. What is God saying to you through this study?

Q. What will you do differently this week as a result?

Q. How can this group help?

### **Prayer:**

Are there any specific needs, struggles, or praises for prayer?