

KEEP THINKING ABOUT IT...

- 1 **Paul is clear in Romans 8:35-39 that nothing can separate the believer from God's love.** But, often times people struggle believing that. How do people take the circumstances of their lives and point to them as evidence that God has abandoned them, is ignoring them, or doesn't love them?

⚙️ *What do people typically do when they feel like God has abandoned them? How do they try to live their lives without Him?*

- 2 **When we face hardships it appears that God is not loving us.** Hardships can keep us from believing that God really does love us. What in your life is keeping you from living in the assurance that God really does love you? Confess that to the Lord. Ask Him to give you His perspective on difficulty.

♥️ *How does the love of God in Christ speak to the perplexities and troubles of life? How have you experienced this?*

- 3 **Romans 8:35-39 declares that nothing can separate Christians from Christ's love.** One of the ways that Christ loves us is through the Holy Spirit. Look at the following verses and discuss how the Spirit living inside of us is an important way that Christ shows His love for us.

📖 *John 14:16, 17*

📖 *Romans 8:11*

📖 *Romans 8:16*

📖 *I Corinthians 3:16*

📖 *I John 4:13-16*

- 4 **What is the difference between being protected from trouble and being protected in the midst of trouble?** How does God protect us in the midst of trouble?

📖 *What are some Biblical examples of God protecting His people in the midst of trouble?*

🗨️ *How has God protected you?*

- 5 **How have you seen a trial or tribulation serve to produce abundant joy within you?** Think about a personal trial or tribulation you have experienced. As you have healed and grown through that trial, has God given you joy?

♥️ *How has God shown Himself to be enough for you in the midst of that tribulation? Spend time thanking Him for making you more than a conqueror over that hardship.*

♥️ *Why are Christians "more than conquerors" (v.37)? How can this be true in spite of the fact that Christians are not exempted from suffering and a violent death (vv.35-36)? Reference verse 28-32 for help.*

- 6 **God loves us, because He is love.** His love is based on His choice and character, not on anything in us or around us.

⚙️ *Prayerfully examine your life for areas where you are relying more on your ability to love God (worship, adoration, obedience, or service), rather than on the truth that He loves you. What is God revealing?*

♥️ *What part of your life do you need to lay down so that you can more fully rely on and enjoy God's complete and limitless love for you?*

- 7 **In Romans 8:36, Paul quotes Psalm 44:22 to show that the difficulties listed in verse 35 (tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, sword) have always been the norm for the people of God.** How is this view different than the popular notion of what it looks like to follow Christ?

📖 *Look back at the context of Psalm 44:22. Why do you think Paul quoted this text in particular?*

- 8 **In verses 38-39, Paul answers the question he raised in verse 35 with absolute certainty ("For I am sure") that nothing can sever God's people from his love in Christ.**

✍️ *How does this truth comfort you?*

✍️ *How can it help you fight sin?*

✍️ *How does it energize you to share Christ?*