

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER: What is the greatest invention the world has ever seen?

OVERVIEW: Everyone goes through hard times. Even Christians. The benefit of being a Christian is that God has given us special tools and resources so that we can face hard times without being shaken. One of the best tools God has given us for times of adversity is to remember His promises. In this discussion we will go deeper with what just might be the greatest promise in the Bible.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. There are around 8,000 promises in the Bible for God's people. What are some of these promises?
3. What promise in the Bible encourages you the most? Can you locate this promise in the Bible?
4. Are you going through a hard time in your life right now? Explain. Try to find a promise that deals with your situation. If you can't think of one, ask the group for help.
5. Read John 3:22-30 and answer the following questions.
 - a. What are John's disciples concerned about?
 - b. What was John's reply?

THE MOST ENCOURAGING VERSE IN THE BIBLE

Romans 8:28
Not Shaken — Week 2

- c. What did John mean in verse 27: "No one can receive anything unless it has been given to him from heaven"?
 - d. Does verse 27 also apply to the trials that we face? Would it be accurate to say, "No one can receive an affliction/trial/hardship unless it has been given to him from God"?
 - e. How does it encourage you to know that nothing can happen to you unless God allows it?
6. Read Romans 8:28 and refer to the sermon.
- a. What does this verse promise?
 - b. Does Romans 8:28 promise you will never suffer? Explain.
 - c. How can God use adversity to benefit us?
 - d. Can God even use our sin for our good? Explain.
 - e. Is this promise conditional (i.e., is there something we must do for this promise to apply to us)?
 - f. How does this verse encourage you with what you are currently facing?

The Last Word: "When God permits His children to go through the furnace, He keeps His eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat. His loving heart knows how much and how long." Warren Wiersbe