

## Explore

**Look up and read your memory verse, Romans 8:28, in your Bible.**

Your body is at work all the time. It does its job without you thinking about it or telling it what to do. If the parts of your body stopped working together, you would not be able to live.

Your memory verse tells us that all things work together for our

God is always at work with His good purposes in mind. He works for His big and good plan. Part of His plan is working all things in life for good.

Let's look at a true story in the Bible to understand what that means.

The book of Genesis tells us the story of Joseph. The verses below tell part of Joseph's story.

**Look up each verse in your Bible and answer the question below each verse.**

**Genesis 37:28**

What was the first thing that happened to Joseph?

**Genesis 39:20-21**

After Joseph was accused of doing something he didn't do, what happened to him?

**Genesis 40:23**

Joseph helped someone who was in prison with him. What happened when that man got out?

Genesis 39:21 tells us that even though Joseph was going through hard times, God was faithful and was with Joseph. Toward the end of Joseph's story, Joseph shares his perspective about the hard things he went through.

**Look up and read Genesis 50:20 in your Bible, and fill in the blank below.**

Joseph told his brothers that even though their actions were evil,

God meant (intended) it for \_\_\_\_\_.

Just like your heart works in your body to keep you alive, God was working in Joseph's life to work things for good. God used what happened in Joseph's life to save his family and ultimately, the nation of Israel.

**Look up and read Romans 8:29 in your Bible.**

God tells us that He works all things for good so that we can be conformed to (made into) \_\_\_\_\_.

When you are going through something tough, take a minute to remember that God loves you and is always at work, even in the hard stuff!

### DEFINITION

**PURPOSE** — God's plan; His anticipated end result

## Discussion Questions

These questions are just a few that your small group will talk about. Think about your responses to the following questions.

1. What have you gone through that God used to make you become more like Jesus?
2. When the hard things of life seem too tough, what people encourage and support you through it?

## 1.1 | God Is Trustworthy

At some point everything stops being trustworthy ... everything except for God. We can trust God completely to be there for us when we need Him. In the Bible, the true story of David and Goliath shows us that God is trustworthy. David trusted God because God had been with him and protected him in the past. God had not forsaken him.

If you trust God and seek Him, He will never forsake you. That means that He will never leave you or give up on you. You will probably never face a nine-foot giant that you will need to fight. But you will face your own battles. You can always trust that God will be with you.

**What is one way that God has shown you that you can trust Him?**

## 1.2 | God Is Loving

God will never fail us. He loves us with a perfect love. When Adam and Eve sinned, their relationship with God was broken and they couldn't fix it. Because of their sin, every person who is ever born will sin and will have a broken relationship with God. But God loves us so much that He didn't want to start over, He wanted to restore what was broken.

If we trust Jesus as Savior, and that He died on the cross for our sins, our relationship with God is restored! We won't be perfect and will still sin and face the consequences of our sin, but we will have a restored relationship with God. When you accept Jesus as your Savior there is NOTHING that can separate you from God's love.

**Can you name a time when it is especially important for you to remember that God is loving?**

## 1.3 | God Is Faithful

God's faithfulness is so big it can't be measured. God is faithful to ALWAYS keep His promises with those who love Him! Since God is perfect in His love for us, we can know that He will also be faithful. When we feel like God is not keeping His promises or doing what you want, remember that He is faithful.

God is faithful to help you grow to be more like Jesus until you go to be with Him in heaven. God doesn't just leave you alone and make you do life on your own. God is faithful to help you when you are tempted, He is faithful to forgive, and He is faithful to help you when you are having a hard time.

**What is a way that God has shown you that He is faithful?**