



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

“All Things Work Together”

Preached by Dr. Daniel Grothe

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Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

The sermon focuses on Romans 8:28, exploring how God works all things together for good for those who love Him. The pastor uses the story of Joni Eareckson Tada, who became a quadriplegic at 17 but went on to have a powerful worldwide ministry, to illustrate how God can take difficult circumstances and use them for good. The message emphasizes that while not all things are inherently good, God can work through challenging situations to accomplish His purposes and make us more like Jesus.

Key Passage | Romans 8:28 ESV

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him and who have been called according to his purpose”

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for bringing us together today. As we open Your Word, we ask that You would quiet our hearts and clear our minds so we can hear You clearly. Help us to see how You are working in every circumstance, even when it's hard to understand. Remind us of Your constant faithfulness and give us the wisdom to trust in Your perfect plan, even when the path ahead seems uncertain.

Guide our discussion and fill our hearts with a deeper love for You. May this time not only strengthen our knowledge, but also draw us closer to You and to one another. Let Your truth shape our thoughts, refine our character, and lead us to live more fully for Your glory. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

Can you share about a time when something that initially seemed negative in your life ended up having an unexpected positive outcome?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.

1. What does it mean that 'God works all things together for good'? How is this different from saying 'all things are good'?
2. How does the story of Joni Eareckson Tada demonstrate God's ability to work through difficult circumstances?
3. What role does our response to suffering play in how God can use it for good?
4. How can we maintain faith and trust in God's goodness during challenging times?
5. How can we support others who are going through difficult times without offering empty platitudes?
6. What are some ways you've seen God work good out of difficult situations in your own life?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life

This week, take time to identify one challenging situation in your life—something that has caused stress, uncertainty, or frustration. Instead of simply enduring it, ask God to give you new eyes to see how He might be working in the midst of it. Remember, He often moves in quiet, unexpected ways, using difficulties to shape our character, deepen our faith, or redirect our steps.

As the week goes on, intentionally share your reflections with a trusted friend, mentor, or small group member. Not only will this encourage you, but it may also inspire others to look for God's hand in their own lives. Trust that even in the struggle, God is near—and He is always at work for your good and His glory.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.

Which of these points will you carry with you this week?

- God can take what He hates and accomplishes what He loves
- All things are not good, but God can work all things together for good
- God's ultimate work is to make us more like Jesus through our circumstances
- Our response to difficulty should be to stay close to God and trust His purposes
- We need to focus on God's faithfulness in both big and small ways

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close you time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord, thank You for the unshakable promise that You are always working all things together for the good of those who love You. Even when life feels confusing or painful, we rest in the truth that You are sovereign and faithful. Help us to hold tightly to that promise, especially when we can't see the full picture or understand why certain things happen. Teach us to lean not on our own understanding, but to trust that You are guiding us with a purpose far greater than we can imagine.

Give us the strength we need to keep going when the path is difficult and the courage to surrender control when we're tempted to rely on ourselves. Open our eyes to see the quiet, powerful ways You are moving in our lives each day. As we walk through both blessings and trials, shape us to be more like Jesus—humble, compassionate, patient, and faithful. Use every experience to draw us closer to You and to reflect Your love more clearly to the world around us. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

Verses for Further Study

- **Genesis 50:20 (ESV)** | *"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."*
- **James 1:2–4 (NIV)** | *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."*
- **2 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)** | *"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."*