

PREPARED

Ice Breakers

- What hard times have you been faced with this week? Why does God allow hardship?

READ Romans 5:3

NOTE: Pastor Bill shared 6 reasons God allows hardship. Read the following 6 scriptures and, in your own words, tell the group why hardship!

1. **1 Peter 5:10** _____
2. **1 Peter 1:6-7** _____
3. **Philippians 1:19-20** _____
4. **Ephesians 5:1-2** _____
5. **Romans 8:37** _____
6. **John 15:1-2** (Why prunings?) _____

- Do you feel like God let you down in the middle of a tough time? Why did you feel that way?
- Is God a God of promises? Does He keep His promises?

Here are 4 Promises God will Keep!

READ Romans 8:26-39 then proceed.

Promises of God

1. God's Spirit will help you when you are weak.

READ Romans 8:26-27

- Ever have problems praying in tough times? Ever feel like not praying?
- Who will intercede for you? (vv. 26-27)
- Has your spirit ever groaned? What does this mean?

2. God works for the good of those that love Him.

READ Romans 8:28

- "In all things" is an important phrase. Why?
- Does God cause "all things" to happen?
- Does God manipulate "all things"?
- Are "all things" His will?

NOTE: God doesn't cause us to sin! It's not His will for us to sin! Much of what we face in this world is not God-caused...it is people-caused. Not God's will...but our will!

God allows us to go through much...doesn't cause it or will it...He allows it!

3. God is for you!

READ Romans 8:31

- Ever felt like God isn't for you? Who is against you? (Read 1 Peter 5:8)

NOTE: Two lies of Satan...

1. God is against you.
2. People are against you.

- **Re-read Romans 8:31.** Who is for you?

4. God will always love you!

READ Romans 8:35

- Can you be separated from God's love?
- Can you "feel" like you're separated from God's love? Can hard times cause us to feel unloved?

Application

- Take a few moments and pray these promises over your small group or family:

God ... You help us when we are weak!
You work for those that love you!
You are for us! Praise God!
You will always love us! Amen!