

Growing Deeper
Guaranteed

Week One: *I Love You No Matter What*
Romans 8:31-39

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. Who has been your biggest advocate in life? What qualities are found in effective advocates?
2. Have you ever found yourself defending someone that others thought was a waste of time? How did that turn out? Why was it important for your sake? For theirs?
3. Read Lamentations 3:22-23. What does it tell you about God?
4. Do you think it's more important for Christian churches to teach about second chances (because everyone needs one) or do you think they should focus more on truth and condemn sin more firmly? Explain your answer.
5. Do you think if churches were more faithful in condemning the evils of society and did a better job of holding up a moral standard, there would be less sin in society today?
6. Who needs to be reminded of God's expectations? Who needs to be reminded of God's grace and mercy?
7. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for the courage to step up and step into the life of someone who has given up hope for a better future.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. Read Romans 8:31-39. To what kind of people is Paul writing these words? Who especially needs to hear them today?
9. Are you the kind of person who kicks yourself for messing up, or do you shrug it off and keep moving?
10. What does Romans 8:31-39 say about the importance of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in the life of the living and not just the dying Christian?
11. What does it mean to you when it says in verse 34 that Jesus is at the right of the Father making intercession for you?
12. Which phrase do you think most applies in life: "Life is just a bowl of cherries" or "Life is hard and then you die"?

Choose one. Explain your choice.

13. What lessons about the nature and values of God do we learn through Jesus' interactions with people in His life? Do you think His values are still evident in most Christian people today? Why or why not?
14. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray to be able to see past the details when reading the Bible and to recognize what lesson God is trying to help you understand about living your life as His child.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

15. Read Romans 8:36-37. What point is being made by the analogy of sheep being led to slaughter?
16. Who is doing the slaughtering?
17. Look again at Romans 8:37. What phrase is used to describe Christians in this verse? Do you agree with that assessment? Why or why not?
18. In that same verse, what phrase is used to describe Jesus? How might seeing Jesus that way help you take hold of the promise that you are indeed *more than a conqueror*?
19. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray that God would help you take hold of the promise that you are more than a conqueror.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

20. Read Romans 8:38-39. In your own words, what is Paul trying to say?
21. What do you believe is the biggest threat to faith: God's apparent lack of concern for His own, materialism, unanswered prayer, political correctness, the secularization of America, or something else?
22. If the person or thing most precious to you in life were destroyed, how would your faith survive? What's the greatest test of faith you've had to face so far in life?
23. Do you love God as much as He loves you? What's the difference?
24. Explain the difference between God's unconditional love of sinners and allowing people to suffer the consequence of

their sin.

25. There's a saying that goes, "When everyone else walks out, God walks in." What does that phrase mean to you? According to Romans 8:38-39, what would it take for God to give up on you?
26. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for America and the people of the world to accept God's love as revealed in Jesus our Savior.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

27. Look again at Romans 8:38. Do you believe in a real devil?
28. Read Ephesians 6:10-12. Who is the real enemy of Christians?
29. Why do you think God gets all the blame for evil in the world?
30. Why doesn't God rid the world of the devil and evil? Read the parable of the weeds in the wheat found in Matthew 13:24-30 for insight.
31. Read Romans 8:28. God doesn't cause all things but God causes all things to work to the good of those who are called. How can God use evil for our good?
32. Have you ever encountered someone who practiced witchcraft or satanic worship? Do you think that is becoming more common or less likely? Explain. How should Christians handle those situations?
33. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for enemies of the faith and give thanks that Jesus has made us more than conquerors, even in the face of evil.