



Mar 2-3, 2024

Break the Ice

Ask your group the following question: What is your favorite dessert? Some may say ice cream, cake, or that they don't like dessert.

Then ask them if they know all the ingredients that are needed to make their favorite dessert. Have them try and name the ingredients. These ingredients may include eggs, flour, cake mix, baking soda, vanilla syrup, etc.

Then ask them if they can imagine eating one of these ingredients at a time — raw eggs, flour, the cake mix, the syrup, etc. Most will say things like “ewww” or “disgusting” or “no way.”

But remind them that when you combine these ingredients according to the recipe then you will end up with something good.

Read Romans 8:28 and make the connection between “all things” and the individual ingredients in their favorite dessert — As each individual ingredient is disgusting by itself but combines with other ingredients to make a tasty dessert, so God takes all of the individual events in our lives and combines to make something good.

Ask your group: What are some events in your own life where God has caused them to work together for good? Are there any individual events/circumstances right now that you are struggling to see how God is going to use for good?

Up

Read Psalm 8. David was in awe of God's interest in him and the rest of mankind. He praised God's majestic name and detailed the reason he calls Him majestic — He created the universe yet also creates plans for humans. In fact, David seems to imply that He is amazed because God cares for Him and mankind more than the rest of His creation. Thus, if God takes care of His creation, how much more will He take care of the crowning work of His creation — us!?

Ask your group the following:

- Why is God majestic from your perspective?

- How should we apply Romans 8:28 in light of Psalm 8? In other words, how does God's character as revealed Psalm 8 inform us of how God works in and through us?

In

God uses all the events of our lives to work in us. But His work doesn't stop there. He not only wants to work *in* us, but He also wants to work *through* us so that others are impacted. Ask the group to take some time to reflect on how God has used circumstances in their lives to minister to others. Ask one or two of them to share ...

Out

One of the greatest "aha" moments in the Christian life is when we realize that God can work through us to reach unbelievers. We don't have to be a great orator or be charismatic. God has given each of us gifts, skillsets, and spheres of influence for the purpose of Him working through us. Ask the group to think about the following questions and share their responses:

- How can you allow God to work *through* you so He can use you to reach others?
- Is there one person God is laying on your heart? How can you allow God to work through you?

Prayer

Conclude your time by leading the group in praying the following themes:

- Have someone pray out loud the entirety of Psalm 8.
- Ask God to help you trust that He will work all things together for your good and His glory.
- Ask God to give you a heart that is willing to be used by Him.