**1. Motivate**

What are some fears you have outgrown?

* speaking in front of a group
* meeting new people

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_v5zucekm> . If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download the vide to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/bdzjan37>

* heights
* Friday the 13th
* sea sickness
* riding a bicycle
* going to sleep in the dark
* monsters under the bed
* getting lost
* getting separated from family in a crowd

**2. Transition**

Some people might somehow fear being separated from God’s loving care.

* Today we will study what Paul said about this
* Because of Christ, nothing will keep us from God and His work in our lives.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 God Works for Our Good

Listen for all God does for us.

Romans 8:28-30 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Sometimes the King James version of these verses are misquoted or misinterpreted.

* “We know all things work together for good …”
* Leaving off the qualifying phrase of who this is for.
* The assurance is given to “those who love God,” those “Called according to His purpose”

How has God been at work in the past (Bible history), the present, and the future on behalf of those who believe?

* working over the centuries through His people, the descendants of Israel
* rescued them from famine, slavery
* kept them through the wilderness, brought them back from exile
* God’s plan for humankind’s sin problem culminated in the death and resurrection of Jesus
* works in the lives of believers today
* promises to return and rule on earth – new Heavens, new earth

In your life, when has a God worked in a difficult situation and accomplished good?

* lost a job, only to get a better one
* had a hard teacher in school, but taught me to study better
* older car was in a fender bender, insurance made it possible to get a newer vehicle
* dumped by a girlfriend/boyfriend and ended up meeting a new person who became my spouse
* family moved so parent could get a job – sad to leave friends, ended up in a better school, better opportunities
* frustrating delay during travel … missed being in a big accident

Since God is working for our good, why do we still struggle when life is hard?

* lack of faith
* we think we know what is best for us, but God knows better
* lack of understanding of the power, authority, and love God has working for us
* we are impatient
* impatience can be a sign of lack of faith

How might you explain to a child or grandchild that can God produce good results out of bad situations?

* people learn to trust God
* uses a situation to teach a lesson
* uses it to move them in the right direction
* prods us off of dead center to get going
* uses it to initiate a sequence of actions that accomplish His purposes for us ... for others around us
* we learn God’s sufficiency and are able to help and encourage someone else who is going through a similar situation

3.2 Not Condemned before God

Listen for how God is for us.

Romans 8:31-34 (NIV) What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Note the words and phrases which tell us what God continues to do for us?

* Work in our behalf … He is “for us”
* Graciously gives us all things
* Declares us justified – “just as if we had never sinned”
* Intercedes for us

Look through the first verses of the chapter to see what Paul is referring to when he asks, “what do we say in response to this?”. What benefits do we receive because of Christ’s saving work for us ?

* We have received His Holy Spirit (v. 9).
* We are made fully alive in Christ (v. 11).
* We are adopted into His family (v. 15).
* We are co-heirs with Christ (v. 17).
* We have a glorious future ahead of us (vv. 18-23).
* We have the Holy Spirit interceding for us before the Father (v. 26).

Who might Paul mean when he mentions those who might be “against us”?

* people opposing our Christian beliefs
* could include someone wanting to rob us, harm us
* someone in a business situation who wants to ruin us
* a bully – happens to adults as well as kids
* an abuser (physical, emotional, sexual) in a family situation
* in some countries, it can be the police or some other element of the government

When has it been obvious that God is for you?

* when I realized Jesus died in my place
* when God supplies needs
* when God gives healing
* when God guides through tough times
* when God enables us to do things we would have thought impossible to do

Paul tells us where Jesus Christ is *right now*, and what He is doing.

* Jesus is in heaven
* He is at the right hand of God the Father
* He is interceding for us

How does it affect your walk with the Lord to know that Christ is interceding for you?

* increases our faith – we become more convinced that God can and will accomplish good things for us
* begin to realize … God LIKES me … a lot … wants good things for me.
* faith is strong when we are convinced that the object of our faith is strong
* as you walk with the Lord over the years, you experience God’s intervention and provision over and over again
* we realize more and more His power, His authority, and His love for us

3.3 Nothing Can Separate Us from God’s Love

Listen for what *cannot* separate us from God’s love.

Romans 8:35-39 (NIV) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Note the list of life-threatening experiences Paul mentions that we may think have potential to separate us from Christ’s love?

* Trouble
* Hardship
* Persecution
* Famine
* Lack of clothing
* Danger
* Sword
* Facing death
* Life
* Death
* Angels
* Demons
* Present problems
* Possible/probable future problems
* Other powers
* Height
* Depth

What might be examples of some of these things in today’s world, in our culture?

* Troubles : financial, health, family
* Danger : accidents, being in a scary part of town
* Demons : spiritual opposition
* Future : worry about what might happen
* Sword : family members in the military
* Famine, nakedness : economic downturn affecting our finances, job loss

Why might these things tempt us to believe that we had been separated from Christ?

* we think we might have lost God’s blessing
* maybe I did something bad that is resulting in my being punished
* what if I committed the unpardonable sin (if you are *afraid* you did, you have not)
* what did I do to deserve this?

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

What do you think that means, to be “more than a conqueror?”

* we don’t win by the skin of our teeth, it isn’t even close
* believers don’t just “get by” … they become positive force for the Kingdom of God

In light of these verses, how should we respond when we *feel* that God is *not* for us?

* remember and claim the spiritual armor – salvation, righteousness, Truth, God’s Word …
* the sheild of faith can protect us from those “firey darts” of doubt that Satan throws at us
* reject Satan’s lies and instead claim God’s love, power, authority at work in our lives as Paul speaks of in today’s scripture passage

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Memorize

* Romans 8:37-39: “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
* Recite it daily. Post it on your bathroom mirror.

Encourage.

* Write an encouraging note to someone who may be struggling with insecurity in their relationship with Christ.
* Use what we’ve studied as a template to encourage this person.

Minister.

* You may be sensing God calling you to serve in some way, but a fear of failure makes you hesitant.
* Rest on your foundation in Christ and step out in trustful obedience.
* Trust Him to work in you and through you for your own good.

Cryptogram Puzzle

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Our operative in Lomta Pumeraq risked his life to get this message to our consulate. We had a partial key to decode it, so you can just match up the letters. The first letter is an E and looking at the bottom row of the key you can see the message starts with an M. There’s technical help at <https://tinyurl.com/bdzjan37> along with other Family Activities