

**Parish of Ferndown**  
**Study sheet for week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> December 2008**  
**“The Holy Spirit – Hope and Future Glory!”**  
**Romans Chapter 8, verses 18-27**

Here are some discussion points for small groups this week.

1. Read the passage from Romans; Paul starts by saying, “I consider that our present sufferings...”. There are many reasons why we might suffer. Discuss these, maybe encouraging people to bring up times they have suffered in some way. Bible verses that might help are: 2 Timothy 2 v 3, Hebrews 12 vv 4-13, John 9 vv1-3, Ezekiel 18 (you may want to pick a few verses!), 1 Peter 4 vv 12-19, 2 Corinthians 12 vv 7-10.
2. Of course, Paul is talking about suffering for being a Christian. Read 2 Corinthians 11 vv 23-29 to see how Paul suffered. If it has not already come out, see if anyone has suffered persecution for being a Christian. Note that “sharing in suffering” is not a prerequisite to “sharing Christ’s glory”, but rather a promise that, when you are suffering, there is Glory to come!
3. Glory is our future, in heaven with Jesus. Are you looking forwards to being in heaven? What do you think it will be like? Exciting? Boring? Think of the most exciting thing that could possibly happen to you. Heaven will be better than that! (See 2 Corinthians 3 vv 7-18)
4. In the meantime, we have to live here. Paul tells us the Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses, sometimes crying out for us without words, so that when God looks at us, he sees His Holy Spirit! Take time for prayer to bring weaknesses, problems and suffering to God through His Holy Spirit.