Summary

We can find hope in the many promises of God, and Romans 8 is a rich source of promises that flow from our salvation and freedom from slavery to sin. From the beginning of the chapter and the promise of no condemnation, to the end and its promise of no separation there is much to give us hope – and hope, as Paul says in Rom 5:5, does not disappoint.

These promises are not just about us and our personal circumstance – they speak to all creation too (vv20-21).

Application:

1, While knowing all these promises and hope we still go through trials (v35). Find some promises in chapter 8 which help make sense of what is going on in this regard. (eg v28) and discuss what that means in everyday life for each person.

2, Verse 23 says we have "the firstfruits of the Spirit". What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives (John 15:26) and what might that mean once we are saved and part of the body?

3, Discuss: Is our witness to the world best served by being perfect, having no trials, living apart from life's difficulties or by being in the world being more than conquerors in our difficulties and demonstrating the power of God in our circumstances?

If the latter what steps must we be prepared to take? eg be vulnerable and share our difficulties as well as the solution with others, by our attitudes, love the unlovely.

4, In your difficulties – are you ready to start living or to start dying – in the midst of your circumstances are you prepared to be more than a conqueror? If you want to see more of the video that DT played go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtweZxNGk1Y (watch the whole interview) or Nick Vujlcic's website at http://www.lifewithoutlimbs.org/

Witness

Colossians 1:26 & 27 tells us what we have that must be revealed to the world. Discuss each person's attitudes to non-Christians – be frank and honest: are we ready to open up our innermost lives, our hopes and fears in order that others might know God in us?