

SUMMER

AT HIGHLANDS

God is in Control

Big Idea

In his message this week, Pastor Dino Rizzo explained that, no matter what is happening in our lives, God is in control. Using Romans 8:28 as the theme scripture, he reminded us that God is working all things together for our good, and that when we love Jesus, nothing in our lives can be out of His control. God will use everything in our life, especially our trials and pain, for His purposes. Practically, there are four primary takeaways from this message.

First, know that things are going to happen. The key isn't living a life without problems, it's choosing to let faith work and fear walk. Recognize that things will happen, and be ready to respond. Next, know that God works all things for the good of those who love Him. That's a big promise. He will work it all out for your good. There is a condition though. You have to love him. IF you love Him, he will work it all out for your good. We also need to know that God's purpose will prevail, and that nothing He has for us can be stopped. Discovering our purpose is great, and it's huge, but it's not enough. We need to be living it out. Choose to live it out and watch God's purposes come alive through you. Finally, know that our walk is our witness to others. How we navigate losses and bad times speaks louder to others than how we celebrate our wins. We have the opportunity to use how we live to make a difference in other people's lives. There can be purpose in your pain. There are eyes on you while you walk through it. So, when life gets difficult, let's feed our faith and starve our fear by pressing into Jesus. Seek Him in prayer, in His Word, and in community with others who love Him, and watch Him turn what the enemy meant for evil into a work of great good.

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. – Romans 8:28

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever observed someone else navigate a really bad time, such as an illness or death, with such peace and confidence that their faith impacted your own walk with God? Share that experience with your group and how it impacted you.
- Talk about how it affects you when you try to manage a difficult situation by yourself. How is it different physically, emotionally, and spiritually when you let God handle the heavy lifting?
- Discuss what the phrase “let your faith work and your fear walk” means to you? What are specific things you can do daily to feed your faith?

Prayer Focus

Invite God to be in total control of your life. Pray for the strength and confidence to trust God to work all things for good no matter what is going on in your life. Pray that the way you walk with God each day would be evident in your life to such an extent that it impacts the people within your circle of influence.

Next Step

If you haven't completed the Growth Track yet, make it a priority! The Growth Track will help you explore Highlands, discover your design, develop your leadership, and join the team. For details, go to www.churchofthehighlands.com/connect/growth-track.

Leader Tip

SERVE Day is coming up on July 15. Start making plans with your group to be the hands and feet of Christ in your community by identifying a SERVE Day project. Now is the perfect time to start making specific plans for your outreach to make sure it is a success.