

**Central Idea** - What do you think is the central theme of chapter 8?

**Developing Trust**

1. How do these verses describe God's wisdom?

KJV Psalm 147:5 Great *is* our Lord, and of great power: his understanding *is* infinite.

KJV Jeremiah 10:12 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.

KJV Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out! 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

2. Are there any past or present events in your life that tempt you to doubt God's wisdom? If so, what are they?

3. a. What is the ultimate purpose of all things according to Romans 11:36 and 1 Corinthians 10:31?

b. What does it mean to glorify God?

c. In what ways do you think your present circumstances bring glory to God?

4. Our prayers often seem to go unanswered, yet God is still handling us with wisdom. He knows that the very adversary we long to have removed is His means to help us grow.

KJV Psalm 119:71 *It is* good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

- a. Describe a time when adversity was not removed even though you or others prayed that it would be.
  
- b. Did you experience personal growth through that adversity? If so, what?
  
5. What is the logical connection between Romans 8:28 and 8:29? (Notice the word *for* at the beginning of 8:29.)
  
6. a. Do you think we can fully understand God's reason for any particular event? Why or why not?
  
- b. What attitude is expressed in Job 42:1-3 and Psalm 131:1?
  
- c. What happens when we let go of our questions and trust God?
  
- d. Is it hard for you to let go of your unanswered questions? Why or why not?
  
7. We should focus not on the reasons for our difficulties but on the lessons we can learn from them.
  - a. Read Deuteronomy 8:2-5. What lesson did the Israelites learn from their experience of getting only one day's food at a time?
  
  - b. Why do you think this lesson would be important for them later when they were prosperous in Canaan? (Read Deuteronomy 8:10-18).
  
8. As we read in 2 Samuel 24:10-14, David was more afraid of suffering adversity at the hands of men than from God directly.

a. Why do you think David felt this way?

b. When we are facing adversity from other people, what comfort do the following verses offering us?

KJV Proverbs 21:30 *There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.*

KJV Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

9. a. What would you say to a friend who is struggling with the question *why* in the face of difficult circumstances?

b. What kinds of things would you be careful not to say?

### **Trust in Action**

1. Memorize Romans 11:33.

2. Share with a friend something God has been teaching you through this study?

3. Next time you hear of a disaster or tragedy, take time to pray for the people involved.

4. Tell God about the situations in your life, past or present, that tempt you to doubt that He knows what He is doing. Ask Him to help you fully believe that His reasons are good, even though He hasn't shown you what they are. Tell Him exactly how you feel about this situation; then meditate on Psalm 131.