

Romans 8:18-25

1. Opening Act of Worship (3 min)

This could be a prayer, song, dance or poem. It could be said out loud by a participant (or two) or could be shared via video. We encourage groups to pray in more than one language.

2. Contextual Introductions (5 mins each group)

A participant from each group says something about the environmental context of their region. This could include how climate change is affecting their area in terms of floods, droughts, heatwaves and so on.

3. Scripture Reading (5 mins)

Read Romans 8:18-25, possibly in two languages.

4a. Group Discussion 1 (15 mins)

In breakout rooms, which will probably be monocultural, discuss these questions:

1. What is your response to the introduction by the other group? Did anything upset, annoy, surprise you?
2. What leaps off the page for you in this passage? Which part do you find surprising or unusual?

It can sometimes help to put the questions in the chat box.

4b. Plenary Dialogue 1 (10 mins)

Gather in plenary to hear from each group. During this time, try to encourage not just feedback from both groups, but actual dialogue between the groups.



Rose Katanu Jonathan surveys parched land near her village in Kitui, Kenya. Credit: Tom Pilston

5. Group Discussion and Plenary Dialogue 2 (25 mins)

The same as for the previous group discussion and plenary dialogue, but with these questions:

3. How does the passage describe creation, and what emotions does that generate in us?
4. How is the relationship between humanity and the rest of creation described?
5. What does this suggest about how we should relate to the rest of creation?

6. Group Discussion and Plenary Dialogue 3 (20 mins)

As before, but with these questions and only allowing 10 mins for the group discussion:

6. In what ways is creation 'groaning' today?
7. How should we respond to the issue of climate injustice?

7. Closing Act of Worship (3 min)

Perhaps a liturgical prayer with different parts read out by different participants