



## Group Discussion Guide

### Romans 5:1-11

*For groups meeting March 1 evening through March 8 morning.*

In the fifth chapter, Paul spelled out some very practical outcomes in the lives of those who had been justified before God through faith in Jesus Christ. He began by directing the reader to the end of the previous chapter with the word “therefore,” which points back to the power of Christ’s sacrifice and resurrection from the dead (Romans 4:24-25). Those who have been justified experience “peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” (Romans 5:1). It is incredibly important to stop and consider this very small phrase, “peace with God.” Before any of us came to faith in Christ, we were enemies of God (something Paul would focus on just a few sentences later, in verse 10). We were separated from Him and deserved to face His righteous judgment of our sin. When we accepted the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ, we received God’s forgiveness and now could walk with Him forever!

This restored relationship allows us to stand in God’s grace as we live out each day on the earth, and is our source of joy (v. 2). In addition, Paul wrote that we can face times of suffering and rejoice in them because of how God uses these times to help us grow. He stated, “suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,” (vs. 3-4). The phrase “does not put us to shame” means “does not disappoint,” (v. 5). The hope – or confidence – we receive through suffering does not disappoint us, because that confidence is made even stronger by the love God places in our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit (v. 5). As we become a conduit of God’s love to those around us, we are that much more confident about our own relationship with God. Paul outlined the maturation process of the believer: faith > grace > suffering > endurance > character > hope ... and all of these are bound up in God’s love.

After writing this, Paul then reiterated how all of this was made possible. He pointed his readers to the compassion and love of Jesus, who “died for the ungodly,” (v. 6). He reminded them (and us) that people normally wouldn’t even die for a “righteous” or “good” person, but that God clearly demonstrated His love for mankind by sending Christ to die for us in the midst of our sinful state (vs. 7-8). Those who believe in Jesus are “justified by his blood” and “saved by him from the wrath of God,” (v. 9). We who believe – even when we were enemies at the point of our belief – are “reconciled to God by the death of his Son” (v. 10) ... and we can know we are saved because of the resurrection of Jesus and his present ministry of making intercession for us (v. 10, Hebrews 7:25). As we live in light of this reconciliation and salvation, we can live in the joy of the Lord (v. 11).

## Discussion Questions

1. We who have believed “have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (v. 1). As you consider this for a moment, how has this changed your life?
2. The same faith that justifies us before God also gives us “access ... into this grace in which we stand” (v. 2). What does it mean to “stand” in God’s grace? According to Paul, how does standing in God’s grace affect us?
3. What do you think it even looks like to “rejoice in our sufferings” (v. 3)? How is this concept connected to understanding how sufferings in our lives can be used by God to help us grow (vs. 3-5)?
4. If you can think of a time in your life when you experienced what Paul wrote about in verses 3-5, share it with your group.
5. Paul wrote that most of us wouldn’t die for a person we consider to be “good,” much less an enemy. How does it make you feel to know that Christ died for you, even while you were considered an enemy of God?
6. Why do you think Paul started verse 11 with “more than that”? What is the relationship in these verses between “being saved” (vs. 9-10) and “rejoicing in God” (v. 11)? What does this mean for us, practically?
7. Paul indicated that our joy is rooted in Jesus, “through whom we have now received reconciliation” (v. 11). Do you find yourself seeking joy in other things? If so, what are they? What would it look like for you to enjoy other good things in life while still having your primary joy rooted in Christ?