

## Wednesday

**Read: Romans 5:3** *Suffering as Christians*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Is suffering a kind of payback for our sins? Why do we still suffer if Christ paid all?*
2. *Why do we need endurance as believers in God?*

**Prayer Focus:** Strengthening God, we are grateful to lean on you in hard times and for the hope you offer us. Thank you for helping us to also understand the suffering of others.

## Thursday

**Read: Romans 5:4** *Character through endurance*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What are the traits of a Christian character?*
2. *What is the effect of endurance in shaping character?*

**Prayer Focus:** God of All, give us hope that strengthens and shapes us as we face times of suffering. Help us form characters that reflect the love and compassion you showed us in Jesus.

## Friday

**Read: Romans 5:5** *The Holy Spirit brings love*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *It can hurt when our hopes are disappointed. How is hope in God different from our worldly hopes?*
2. *What difference can knowledge of the Holy Spirit make in our lives, especially in a world that can seem so unloving and troubled?*

**Prayer Focus:** God of all power, help us to be vulnerable enough to accept your love that knows the whole truth about us. And when we accept that love, let us pour out your love and forgiveness to others. Let us boast together of our hope, peace, grace, and love.

## Romans 5:1-5

*Paul writes of peace, suffering, endurance, and love.*

### Message Notes:

## Small Group Format

### Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What gives you hope in your life today?*

### Opening Prayer

### Song (optional)

### Reflection on Scripture

- Have someone read Discuss observations about the text.
  - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
  - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

### *Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)*

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

### Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

### Pray for each other

### Refreshments (optional)

**June 16, 2019**

**Romans 5:1-5**



## Monday

**Read: Romans 5:1** *Peace in Christ Jesus*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How are we justified or reconciled with God through Jesus Christ? What does it mean to you to be justified in this way?*
2. *In what ways do you find peace in God?*

### Prayer Focus:

Loving God, you offered a way to make us whole in you through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. You are the one who can move us to find ways to live out your peace.

## Tuesday

**Read: Romans 5:2** *Boasting of grace*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *If Jesus brought us all access to God's grace, does that mean there is no more sin?*
2. *For Paul, boasting means to rejoice or exalt. In what ways can you boast of God's grace?*

### Prayer Focus:

Gracious One, we find it difficult to express our joy in your grace sometimes, especially when we don't clearly see your love. Forgive us when we take your grace for granted.