Romans 5 Group Discussion Guide

In Romans chapter 5, Paul builds on the foundation laid in the earlier chapters of the book, moving from the bad news of humanity's sin and God's wrath to the incredible blessings that belong to those who are justified by faith in Jesus Christ. Paul uses a series of rapid-fire declarations to show that justification is not just a one-time legal verdict but the doorway into a rich, ongoing, and eternal relationship with God.

The sermon walks through seven key possessions that every believer holds because of their justification by faith: peace with God, permanent access to grace, hope in God's glory, hope in eternal salvation, God's love poured into our hearts, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and reconciliation with God. Each of these builds on the others, and together they paint a picture of a salvation that is entirely the work of Jesus Christ, accomplished not with our help but entirely for our benefit and for God's glory.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You grateful for the gift of salvation that You have freely given us through Jesus Christ. As we open Your Word together today, we ask that You would quiet our hearts and open our minds. Help us not just to understand these truths with our heads, but to receive them deeply into our hearts. Where there is doubt, bring faith. Where there is confusion, bring clarity. And where there is discouragement, bring hope. May everything we discuss today draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you own that you are really glad you have, and why does it matter to you?

Key Verses

- Romans 1:16
- Romans 5

Questions

- The sermon describes three tenses of salvation: justification (I was saved), sanctification (I am being saved), and glorification (I will be saved). Which of these three do you find most encouraging right now, and why?
- Paul says that because of justification by faith, we have peace with God, not just the peace of God. What is the difference between those two things, and how does understanding that difference change the way you approach your relationship with God?
- The sermon challenges the common cultural idea that everyone is a child of God, explaining that Scripture makes a distinction between being a creature of God and a child of God. How would you explain this distinction to someone who has never heard it before?
- Paul describes grace as a 'standing grace,' meaning it is a permanent and ongoing reality in the life of a believer. How does knowing that grace is not something you can lose or run out of affect the way you handle your own failures and struggles with sin?
- The sermon describes two unhealthy extremes when it comes to suffering: total avoidance and self-indulgent suffering. Where do you tend to land on that spectrum, and what does a healthy, biblical response to unavoidable suffering look like in your own life?
- Paul says that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. Can you think of a time in your life when you saw this progression play out? What did you learn about God through that experience?
- The sermon says that God pours His love into our hearts not just for our own benefit, but so that we can overflow into the lives of people around us who do not yet know Him. Who in your life might God be pouring that extra love into you for, and what might it look like to empty your cup for them?
- The sermon emphasizes that Jesus accomplished salvation entirely on His own, without our help, so that all glory belongs to Him. Why is it so tempting for people to want to contribute something to their own salvation, and what are the dangers of thinking that way?

Life Application

This week, take five minutes each day to read Romans 5:1-11 slowly and out loud. As you read, identify which of the seven possessions described in the sermon (peace with God, permanent access to grace, hope in God's glory, hope in eternal salvation, God's love, the Holy Spirit, and reconciliation)

feels most real to you right now and which feels most distant. Write down one specific way you can live out of that possession this week, whether it means extending grace to someone, sharing love with a person who needs it, or simply resting in the peace that Jesus has already secured for you.

Key Takeaways

- Justification by faith is the foundation for every spiritual blessing a believer possesses, including peace with God, access to grace, hope, love, the Holy Spirit, and reconciliation.
- Salvation is not a single moment but a three-part reality: we were saved (justification), we are being saved (sanctification), and we will be saved (glorification), and all three tenses are secured by the work of Jesus.
- Suffering is not a sign of God's displeasure but a tool He uses to produce endurance, character, and hope in the lives of believers who trust Him through it.
- God pours His love into believers without measure, not only for their own benefit but so they can overflow into the lives of others who do not yet know Him.
- The entire work of salvation was accomplished by Jesus Christ alone, not with human assistance, so that all glory belongs to Him and our confidence rests entirely in what He has done.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for everything that You have secured for us through Your death, burial, and resurrection. Thank You that we have peace with You, that we stand in a grace that never runs out, and that we have a hope that will never put us to shame. As we leave this time together, remind us of what we truly possess in You. When we are tempted to doubt, bring us back to Your Word. When we are struggling with sin, remind us that Your grace is greater. When we are suffering, help us to trust that You are producing something beautiful in us. And when we encounter people who do not yet know You, help us to pour out the love You have so generously poured into us. May everything we do this week point back to You, the one who did it all. In Your name we pray, amen.