

HOPE

The Assurance of Hope

Romans 5:1-11 (ESV)

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Session 2

Resilient Hope | Romans 5:3-5

Big Idea: Because we've been justified by faith, we have unshakable hope.

1. _____ in Suffering.

2. Hope that Doesn't Put Us to _____.

(Notes Continued)

Personal Journaling or Group Questions

Getting Starting: Read Romans 5:1-11 and reflect on hope in light of your present suffering. Why is it so hard to believe the promises of God in the midst of suffering? What doubts have surfaced through this crisis? What are you learning about yourself through them? Consider how the work of Jesus can lead you through suffering to a tougher, more resilient hope.

Focus on Romans 5:3-5 and the two points from session 2 as you answer the following questions.

1. What's tempting you to unbelief, despair, and hopelessness? How is God working in that area of your life to produce endurance, character, and hope? What "next step" do you need to take today?
2. Where in your life do you struggle with shame? How does that affect your relationship with God and understanding of heaven? How can knowing you will be joyfully welcomed into God's presence on the day of judgment affect your relationship with him *today*?
3. In what ways has suffering caused you to doubt God's love? How can the outpouring of his love by his Spirit give you hope today and assurance for that final day?

Wrapping Up: Share your greatest takeaway from session 2 and then end with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to pour out a fresh wave of God's love into your heart(s).