

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 3

Rooted Hope | Romans 5:6-11

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

1. _____ of God's Love.

2. Assurance of Final _____.

3. _____ in God.

Personal Journaling or Group Questions

Getting Starting: Read Romans 5:1-11 and reflect on the nature of hope in light of love. How has your understanding of love been shaped by culture? If love is rooted in subjective feelings, how could (or has) this crisis plant seeds of doubt in your heart about God's love? Where can your assurance of love, and therefore hope, lie? Consider how the work of Jesus can root your hope in God's love.

Focus on Romans 5:6-11 and the three points from session 3 as you answer the following questions.

1. What's tempting you to doubt God's love, care, and concern for you? How could you use Romans 5:1-11 to preach the gospel to yourself? To others?
2. How does friendship with God affect your hope in final salvation and your joy in the present? What would need to change (e.g., your beliefs, thoughts, attitude, etc.) for you to feel "at home" in God's presence?
3. What has the coronavirus (or current suffering) revealed about your greatest joy? How do you need to respond to Romans 5:11 (e.g., worship Jesus for making joy in God possible, repent of valuing lesser joys, etc.)? How will you cultivate deeper joy in God this week?

Wrapping Up: Share your greatest takeaway from session 3 and then end with prayer.