



Leader's Guide

LESSON 7Dr. Jerry Nelson

In response to the sermon on October 21.

Romans 5:1-11 **Peace with God**

Key Points: Our world clamors for peace. We do as well. Peace and hope are closely linked. In this passage Paul helps us to understand the importance of hope—hope in a world that lives in despair. In this passage we will discover:

- Peace with God/reconciliation
- Access to grace
- Hope in the glory of God for final salvation
- Joy in suffering; positive accomplishments
- God's love demonstrated "while we were yet sinners"
- Worship (we rejoice)

God's great love is expressed throughout this passage. We know that we are loved because we were loved even in our sin. Christ died for the ungodly; "sending his Son to die for people who refused to worship Him reveals the magnitude of God's love for us."¹ God continues to lavish us with His love, even in the difficulties of life. Through suffering, God is at work producing growth in our character and relationships that reach far beyond conventional "wisdom." Many times we either deny anesthetize it, or contend with God over the pain. God, rich in grace, redeems it.

As believers, we now live in peace and hope. Our response to such love is worship!

Personal Reflection:

- As you study this passage, take time to think about the ways God has blessed you with His grace; through both the difficulties and the joys of life. Take time to worship Him for the many ways He has blessed you with spiritual blessings.

- Knowing God loves you is a foundational truth. Many times difficult circumstances tempt us to believe that God does not love us. The truth expressed in this passage is another way to help your group understand, both cognitively and experientially, God's love for them.

¹ *The NIV Application Commentary*, pg.172

Discussion Questions:

1. How is peace *with* God different from peace *of* God? How is “peace with God” different from peace of mind? In verse 11 Paul uses the word “reconciliation” with God. How does this add to our understanding of “peace with God?”
2. V10 How were you formerly God's enemy? What should be God's disposition toward us as his enemies?
3. V2 What grace do we now stand in? Describe several aspects of standing in God's grace.
4. How might you be allowing your life circumstances to blind you to the peace you have with God?
5. In what ways has suffering produced endurance, character and hope in your faith experience?
6. How can suffering produce positive rather than negative results?
7. What incident in your life can you look back on and see the truth of verses 3-5?
8. Vs 9-10 What level of confidence can you have that you belong to God and why can you have that confidence? How did Jesus' death affect our security in God's love?
9. Who in your life needs to hear that through Jesus Christ they are no longer enemies with God? Take a few minutes and as a group pray for these people.