



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families

For the week of March 5, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- What actually changes when you are justified?
- What is one way the Gospel of Jesus Christ is meaningful to you today?

Romans 5:1-11

The Fruit of Justification

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.

- Paul tells us about past, present, and future blessings for those who have been justified by faith. What are these blessings (1-2)? How have you experienced each of these blessing in your life?
- What is it like to not have peace with God? How would someone know that they have peace with 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.

- What good is justification if I am suffering? (3-4)

- In God's hands, our suffering has a purpose. What does Paul see the Holy Spirit doing in the hearts of suffering believers?
- What are two ways you can know that God loves you? (5-8)
- Paul shares some powerful argument (7-8)
 - It would take a very loving person to die for another (7a)
 - But, even a super-loving person would not die for an evil one (7b)
 - However, that's what Jesus did (8)

When did you first realize that Jesus died for you when you were still a sinner?

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.

- Jesus died for us when we were His enemies. But He'll do even more for us now that we're His own. What is it? (9)
- God accomplished our salvation by Christ's weakness and death. Now that Jesus is resurrected and victorious, what does He give to His people? (10)

- **The following statements describe a person who is rejoicing in God's reconciliation. (11)**

- *They love to study the truth of justification and talk about it with others*
- *They think about the past in terms of justification*
- *When they discover a new personal flaw, God's grace becomes more precious to them*
- *When your conscience accuses you, you don't answer with excuses (i.e. I had low blood sugar), you answer with the Gospel*
- *When critics come against you, you don't self-justify. You feel free to sway, "I'm worse than you know"*
- *When you face death, you have confidence to know you are going to see a Friend*

Which of these statements strikes a chord with you? Why?

- **Pray together in light of this week's passage.**

To hear sermons and access past study guides visit www.wepc.org/resources/sermons-media-study-guide

Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org

