



Week of June 14, 2020

Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,

⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person -- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. What is your attitude toward "tough love"? Have you experienced it?
- B. What part of your character has grown the most in your lifetime? What helped it grow?

Bible Study Questions:

- 1. Why do you think Paul writes that we "boast in our sufferings"?
- 2. What is the hope that Paul is referring to? What does Christian hope mean to you?
- 3. Can you try to rephrase Paul's argument in your own words?
- 4. Have you ever felt that God was punishing you? What convinced you otherwise?
- 5. Do you think that Christians *should* suffer less than non-Christians? Why or why not?
- 6. What have you learned through hardship? What would your life have been like without it?
- 7. When should you allow a loved one to struggle even though you have the ability to relieve them?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about perseverance