

Wrestling with Romans
Romans 5
Discussion Guide, March 21, 2021

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. – Romans 4:23-24

- How did you live a life of biblical faith this past week?

OPEN:

- If a stranger came up to you and simply said, "tell me about you." How would you define yourself?

READ and ASK: Romans 5

- What is our basis for peace with God?
- In a worldly sense, peace seems to be something that is difficult to come by. How does this text speak attaining peace regardless of our circumstances?
 - o How is peace with God different than peace of mind? How is it the same? How is it better?
- How do verses 3-4 challenge our instant gratification culture? How does that relate to our spiritual life?
 - o How does suffering produce perseverance? And how does perseverance produce character?
 - o If we could see suffering, perseverance, character and hope as "stages", where is God working in your life right now?
- How has God most clearly shown his love for people?
- How has the sin of Adam affected his descendants all the way to the present day?
- There is a gift mentioned five times in verses 15-17.
 - o What is it?
 - o Who gives it?
 - o How is it received?
 - o How is focusing on the word "gift" significant to you?
- From this passage, what are the blessings that come to the Christian? What blessing do you need the most right now?

APPLY:

- There are a lot of significant verses within this passage. What verse speaks to you most powerfully right now? Why?
- What does this text teach us about what God thinks of us?
- How can pausing and soaking in Romans 5:1-11 help us in defining ourselves rightly?
 - o How should the cross of Christ define us? (think in relation to where we stand before God as a result of the cross)
 - o How do you need to find your identity in the gospel?
- NEXT STEP: In what ways can you thank God for the grace he has shown to you this week?

Memory Work: But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. - Romans 5:8