

WEEK 9 | ROMANS 5:1-11

ROMANS | THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S POWER

OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES.

The following passages may be helpful to you as you consider this text.

- Hebrews 10:19-25 – We can confidently take advantage of our access to God because of Jesus.
- John 3:16; John 13:1 – What does God's love for his people look like? Look at Jesus.
- 1 Timothy 1:12-17 – Nobody is too far gone. God can reconcile even the “chief of sinners.”

THEMES.

The overarching theme of Romans is the gospel—salvation through Jesus Christ. That is important to remember and keep in front of your group, because the letter is a theological masterpiece. But as with any work of art, each brush stroke's true beauty is best seen when the piece as a whole is realized. To that end, we will deal with many sub-themes, but remember that each one weaves together to give the “fullest, plainest and grandest statement of the gospel in the New Testament.”¹

1. All men and women are born with a sin nature, actively oppose God, and need salvation. (Rom. 5:6-11; Ps. 51:5; John 3:1-15; Rom. 5:12-14; Eph. 2:1-3)
2. Righteousness is not attained by human action or works of the law; justification is God's free gift of grace received by faith in Jesus. (Rom. 5:1-2; Gen. 15:1-6; Acts 16:30-31; Rom. 5:17-19; Eph. 2:4-9; Phil 3:8-11; Titus 3:4-7)
3. God's love for humanity is clearly demonstrated in Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. (Rom. 5:8; John 3:16; John 13:1; John 15:12-13; Galatians 2:20; 1 John 3:16)

QUESTIONS.

Feel free use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of the week's Scriptures.

1. Did the Holy Spirit use last week's passage or sermon to convict, challenge, or encourage you in any way? Did he use it to confirm or answer a prayer in any way? If you're willing, share with the group.
2. What makes you feel loved by others? How do you show your love for others?
3. What is the significance of noting that Christ died for us “while we were still sinners” (Rom. 5:8)?² According to vv. 8-10, why is this cause for confidence in God's ability to preserve your faith to the end?
4. Romans 5:1-11 includes several benefits enjoyed by those justified by God. Which of the following strikes the chords of your heart at this time in your life? If you're willing, share why.
 - Peace with God (v. 1)
 - Full access to God's grace (v. 2a)
 - The hope of glory (v. 2b) strengthening us in our sufferings (vv. 3-4)
 - God's love poured into our hearts by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (v. 5)
 - Reconciliation to God (vv. 10-11)
 - Life-permeating joy (vv. 2, 3, 11)

¹ John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Romans: God's good news for the world*. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 19.

² Jared C. Wilson, *Knowing the Bible: Romans*, The Gospel Coalition., Retrieved from <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-romans/#week-5-hope-as-a-result-of-righteousness-by-faith-rom-5-1-21>.

5. Are you currently enduring any “sufferings”? Are God’s love and joy your friends in the midst of your struggle? Or, do they feel like strangers to you? What do you need from this group?

Note: Remember, the same man who wrote this passage also “pleaded with the Lord” to remove a “thorn” from his life in 2 Corinthians 12. Enduring suffering is never easy, and grieving with those affected is appropriate. As with Job, it may be more helpful to quietly mourn with a friend and exemplify God’s care for him/her than to pick them up with words in the moment.³

6. How might the extravagant love of God shown to you affect your relationships? How should it affect your personal mission and evangelism?⁴

PRAY TO CLOSE.

³ Job 6:25-26.

⁴ Michael Kruger, *Study Romans*, The Gospel Coalition., Retrieved from <https://cdn.rts.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Sermon-Notes-Romans-L14.pdf>.