

Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, March 16th, 2025

Series: **“Discovering Our Need for a Savior”**

Message: **“Peace & Hope Through Jesus Christ”**

Sermon Text: **Romans 5:1-11**; Old Testament Text: **Micah 7:18-20**; Gospel Text: **Matthew 5:3-12**.

Read **Romans 5:1-11** as you listen to the sermon, then answer the questions below.

1. Read **Romans 5:1**. What does it mean to be *justified by faith*?

How long does it take to be *justified by faith*?

Explain why if *we have been justified by faith* we would have *peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*.

2. Read **Romans 5:2**. What does it mean to you *that you have obtained access into the grace in which we stand by faith*?

Why would this cause us to *rejoice in hope of the glory of God*?

3. Read **Romans 5:3-5**. How does *suffering produce endurance*?

How does *endurance produce character*?

How does *character produce hope*?

Why does our *hope not put us to shame*?

4. Read **Romans 5:6**. To what is the Apostle Paul referring when he says, *“while we were still weak?”*

Who determined *the right time at which Christ should die for the ungodly*?

5. Read **Romans 5:7-8**. How did God show His love to us?

6. Read **Romans 5:9**. According to this verse, why can we be confident that we will not face God's wrath?

7. Read **Romans 5:10**. What do you think Paul is talking about when he says, "***we shall be saved by his life?***"

8. Read **Romans 5:11**. How should this verse make us feel?

How often do you reflect on the fact that ***you've been reconciled with God through our Lord Jesus Christ?***

How might thinking of this more often help to strengthen our faith?

9. What will you remember most from this message?

Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Micah 7:18-20** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. According to **Micah 7:18**, why is God willing to pardon our iniquities and transgressions?
 2. When Micah refers to *the remnant of his inheritance*, what is he telling us about the number of people who will be saved?
 3. According to **Micah 7:19**, what is God determined to do about the *sins and iniquities of those* who trust in Him?
 4. According to **Micah 7:20**, why will God *show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham*?
- II. Next read **Matthew 5:3-12**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. When Jesus says in **Matthew 5:3**: "*Blessed are the poor in spirit*," what does He mean?
 2. In **Matthew 5:4**, what kind of *mourning* is Jesus talking about?
 3. In **Matthew 5:5**, how do you define *the meek*? Do you fit your definition?
 4. In **Matthew 5:6**, what is it about this promise that makes so much sense?
 5. When you read **Matthew 5:7**, do you count yourself among *the merciful*? What are some ways you extend mercy to others?
 6. In **Matthew 5:8**, do you resonate with *the pure in heart*? If not, what stands in your way?
 7. In **Matthew 5:9**, we are called to be *peacemakers*. What are some ways in which you see yourself as a peacemaker?
 8. Have you ever counted yourself among those *who are persecuted for righteousness*?
 9. Is there anyone here who believes they have suffered as described in **Matthew 5:11** for Jesus?
 10. Does **Matthew 5:12** convince you that such persecution is more than worth it?
- III. Now read **Romans 5:1-11**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Read **Romans 5:1**. What does it mean to be *justified by faith*?
 2. How long does it take to be *justified by faith*?

3. Explain why if *we have been justified by faith* we would have *peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*.
4. Read **Romans 5:2**. What does it mean to you *that you have obtained access into the grace in which we stand by faith*?
5. Why would this cause us to *rejoice in hope of the glory of God*?
6. Read **Romans 5:3-5**. How does *suffering produce endurance*?
7. How does *endurance produce character*?
8. How does *character produce hope*?
9. Why does our *hope not put us to shame*?
10. Read **Romans 5:6**. To what is the Apostle Paul referring when he says, *“while we were still weak?”*
11. Who determined *the right time at which Christ should die for the ungodly*?
12. Read **Romans 5:7-8**. How did God show His love to us?
13. Read **Romans 5:9**. According to this verse, why can we be confident that we will not face God’s wrath?
14. Read **Romans 5:10**. What do you think Paul is talking about when he says, *“we shall be saved by his life?”*
15. Read **Romans 5:11**. How should this verse make us feel?
16. How often do you reflect on the fact that *you’ve been reconciled with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*?
17. How might thinking of this more often help to strengthen our faith?