



UPSTATE GROUP GUIDE

The Love of Christ |

December 22 |

Romans 5:1-11

Things to Know

Christmas Eve Services

December 23-24 - [Click Here for Details!](#)

Mission Link

January 5 - [Click Here for Details!](#)

Equipping U - Simpsonville

January 8-May 7 - [Click Here to Register!](#)

Equipping U - Haywood

January 8-May 7 - [Click Here to Register!](#)

Equipping U - Anderson

January 15-April 30 - [Click Here to Register!](#)

Studying God's Word *In Community*

*Reminder: Seek to understand and apply God's word, **not** rehash the sermon.*

Read

Read Romans 5:1-11 and make observations about the text.

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
 - What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
 - Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
 - What do you need help understanding about this passage?
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Sermon Recap

- It may seem like there is a shortage of love in this broken world, but the truth is people just do not know where to look. At Christmas, we see that God has given us more love than we could ever need.
 - The love of God is seen clearly at the cross of Jesus Christ where Christ died as a substitute for sinners.
 - Justification is the most important doctrine in the Christian faith; it tells us that Christ has done everything that was necessary for our salvation.
 - We are not loving as Christ loved until we are loving without evaluation and with a heart willing to sacrifice for the betterment of others.
 - We were made to walk in relationship with God, but sin separates everyone from him. Through Christ's work we can experience reconciliation to the God who created us.
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Discussion Questions

1. **Romans 5:1**

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

Question: What does it mean to have *peace with God*? How is this different from feelings of personal peace or calmness?

2. **Romans 5:2**

"Through 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."

Question: How does “standing in grace” shape our understanding of our relationship with God? How does this impact our hope in daily life?

3. **Romans 5:3-5**

"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

Question: Why does Paul encourage believers to “rejoice in our sufferings”? How have you seen God use trials to strengthen your faith or character?

4. **Romans 5:6-8**

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Question: What does this verse teach us about the nature of God’s love? Why is it significant that Christ died for us while we were still sinners?

5. **Romans 5:10-11**

"For 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."

Question: What does reconciliation mean in this passage? How does being reconciled to God change the way we live and interact with others?

Scripture

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** Through 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. **3** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and 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.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. **10** For 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. **11** More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

[*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ro 5:1-11.

Living on Mission In Community

Before you close the group, answer this question:

How is God leading me to respond to His Word this week?

The love of God is something that is poured into every single person who is a Christian. As the love of God pours into our lives it should overflow into the lives of others. How is God calling you to display the love of God to other people this season? What are some practical steps you can take this Christmas to display the love of Christ?

Optional Breakout Questions

Consider making time at the end of the group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific). Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:

1. How did you feed yourself?
 - *(What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)*
 2. How did you feed others?
 - *(How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)*
 3. How did you feed your flesh?
 - *(What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)*
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Leader Resources

If you are a leader and would like extra resources or a full curriculum guide, [CLICK HERE.](#)

