

Romans 5:1-11 English Standard Version (ESV)

1 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.

Discussion/Journal Questions

Reflect on a time you experienced conflict with someone, maybe an extended family member, a co-worker, or someone at church. How did you handle that conflict? What was the outcome?

What is your go-to response to conflict? Do you tend to escalate or ignore it? Why do you think that is?

Romans 5:1-11 three times slowly. What words or phrases stand out to you?

According to this passage, before coming to Christ we are enemies of God, but after Christ we have peace with God. Reflecting on your own testimony, what was it like being God's enemy? How are you now experiencing peace with God?

In your own words, how does Jesus reconcile the conflict between us and God?

How is Jesus a model for us when it comes to reconciling with others?

Read Matthew 5:23-24 and Matthew 18:15. According to these verses, what is the first step in dealing with conflict? What is our goal in taking this step?

Read James 1:19. What does this verse tell us about how we should approach our brothers or sisters with whom we have conflict?

Is there someone with whom you need to pursue reconciliation? How can your group encourage you to take the first steps?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?