

Romans 5:1-5 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.

Discussion/Journal Questions

In your own words, how would you define “hope”?

What is something you hope for going into 2021?

Read Romans 5:1-5. What are some things people mistakenly put their hope in? How does putting your hope in the wrong person or thing lead to shame and disappointment?

Read Hebrews 6:19-20. In the sermon, John used the illustration of an aircraft carrier anchor versus a fishing line. How is Jesus like an anchor?

In Romans 5, Paul says that suffering produces endurance. What are some examples of how suffering has made your faith stronger?

What does it look like to “rejoice in our sufferings”? How does this set us apart from the world around us?

When non-Christians look at you, what do they see? Do they see someone who is full of a hope anchored in King Jesus?

Read Hebrews 12:1-2. When the pressure of the world grows and our hope begins to weaken, what should we do according to this passage?

What habits or disciplines do you need to build into your life so you can daily look to Jesus and trust in Him as your anchor? How can your group help you?

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?