Women's Bible Study — Handout

◆

Lesson 7 | *Romans 5:1-11*

Exulting in glory, tribulation, and God

Name:

Date:

PREPARE YOUR HEART

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom, insight, and understanding as you study this passage. Begin by reading the full text above before working through the questions.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

> ***Romans 5:1-2***
> *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.*

1. After Paul has spent four chapters explaining the pervasiveness of our sin and how God has saved us from our sin by justification through faith, he begins chapter 5 by spelling out two benefits that accompany this justification: peace with God and access into the grace in which we now stand. Read Rom 5:10, 2:5, and 8:7-8. Based on these verses, how would you explain peace with God?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

2. Look up Rom 5:20-21, 6:14, and 4:16-17 (minus the text in between the dashes). a) What do we learn from these verses about the nature of this grace in which we stand? b) Is this understanding of grace more expansive than how you'd understood it in the past? If so, how??

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

3. According to v2, not only do we have peace with God and access into his grace, but we also have the added benefit of being able to rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Read Rom 8:18, 21; 1 Cor 2:7-9; and 2 Cor 4:17. What do these verses teach us it will be like someday to get caught up in God's glory?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

4. a) How do you think our hope in the promises of Scripture is different than normal, everyday hope (like when we say, for example, "I *hope* I can get that for Christmas")? b) How might biblical hope be able to encourage you with a hardship you're facing right now if you set your sights on someday being caught up in God's glory??

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

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

5. In v3, Paul goes on to say that beyond rejoicing in the hope of God's glory, we should also rejoice in our sufferings. This seems like a tall order! a) But what is one of the benefits of our salvation with which he's equipped us to face adversity that we just read about in v2? b) And why ought we, according to vv3-5, rejoice in our sufferings? Try to explain the progressive fruit of suffering, and how each fruit results in the next one.

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

> ***Romans 5:5-8***
> *…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.*

6. a) What do you think Paul means in v5 when he insists, "…and hope does not put us to shame"? See Ps 22:4-5 to inform your answer. b) When Paul goes on to explain, "…because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit," do you think this is another way of theological reasoning to help us believe, or is Paul talking about something that is more of an experience? See also Eph 3:16-19. c) How might verse 5 be an assurance to you during a time of doubt in your Christian walk?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

7. a) According to vv6 and 8, what historical event happened that is the reasonable basis for which we as Christians can be sure that God has poured his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit? b) And who initiated all this?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

> ***Romans 5:9-10***
> *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.*

8. Paul's argument in vv9-10 is an argument from greater to lesser, or the harder thing to the easier thing. What are the harder things that have happened that assure us that the easier things will therefore happen too??

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

9. What do you think it means in v10 to be "saved by his life"? See Heb 7:25 and Rom 8:34.

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

10. Vv10-11 introduce talk of reconciliation. So far, Paul has used terms like justification, redemption, and atonement/propitiation to teach us about our salvation, all with a different emphasis. What nuance does the notion of reconciliation bring to our salvation story?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

11. a) Is this reconciliation one-sided or mutual? i.e., Who all needs to be reconciled? See Rom 1:18 and 8:7-8. b) Who according to vv10-11 initiates and secures this reconciliation?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

> ***Romans 5:11***
> *More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

12. Paul begins this section by rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God. And here he ends by glorying in the fact that we also rejoice in God himself. Looking back on your answer to question 10, and according to v11, what is the ultimate Gift we receive as a result of the gospel taking root in our

lives?? Do you see and cherish the gospel for this, or has it been easy to get sidelined by the other gifts the gospel has brought you (such as freedom from guilt, a good church community, and a "ticket into heaven")?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES