



Connect Discussion Guide

02.13.22 Message | Tyler Myers | Romans 5:1-11

Key Scriptures:

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

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

- Romans 5:1-11

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 4:7

Message Highlights:

- As children of God, we have been justified by Jesus' blood and have peace with God.
- Justice is when we make other people's problems our problem because God made our problem his problem.
- Don't forget to sit in yours and others' "weak." When we mask our "weak", it makes us more fragile.
- Consider the ache of those who haven't tasted the liberation of oneness with Christ at the micro level, so have no clue how to handle it at the macro level.
- "We mustn't imagine that our feeling of being close to God is a true index of the reality. Emotions often deceive. Paul is summoning us to understand the reality, the solid rock beneath the shifting sands of feeling." (N.T. Wright)

Conversation Starter:

Is peace something you actively pursue in your life or rather something that you relate passively to?

Discuss the Message:

1. We have peace *with* God, according to Romans 5:1. How is this peace different from experiencing the peace *of* God?
 - a. How does the grace of God play a crucial role in this conversation?
2. In your life, how has suffering produced endurance, character and eventually hope, as Paul talked about in Romans 5:3?
3. What does Romans 5:6 show us about God? Try to glean at least 5 attributes or characteristics of God from the implications of this verse.
4. How does masking our weaknesses actually end up weakening us further?
 - a. Think back to a time when you humbled yourself and shared your weakness rather than covering it up; how did that lead to growth?
5. Individually, and silently, read through today's main passage again (Romans 5:1-11). Once you come to a word or phrase that stands out to you, stop and meditate on that word or phrase, asking God to speak to you through the word(s). Once everyone has had the chance to meditate for 2-3 minutes, share with your group which word(s) stood out to you within the passage, and why.

Pray:

Father in Heaven, we rejoice in you through our Lord Jesus, because we have received reconciliation with you through his death and resurrection! We ask that by your Spirit, we might be strengthened to face suffering in this life. We trust you when you say that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope. We desire to live with character and hope so that we can be a part of your mission of reconciliation in this world. Amen.