

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Romans 5:1-11

LEADER'S STUDY

Justified by His Blood, Saved From His Wrath

Romans 5:1-11

What is happening?

Paul just explained in the preceding chapter that salvation has *always* been through faith in the things God has said, not in our faithfulness to doing the right things. Using Abraham as an example, he showed that this was how it worked even in before Jesus came. This week's passage begins with "Therefore," building upon that truth. (In other words, it's what the "therefore" is there for.) Because we're *saved* through faith (not our deeds), we are *justified* on the same basis. According to Merriam-Webster, "justified" means *having or shown to have a just, right, or reasonable basis*. In this application, because of our faith in Christ's sacrifice on our behalf, it is just, right, and reasonable for God to be at peace with us. We are no longer be subject to His holy wrath. This is a completed transaction; we didn't earn it to begin with, and nothing we do—or fail to do—can nullify it (John 10:28). There's no need for us to walk on eggshells, fearful we'll mess up and cause Him to reject us. He knows we'll mess up! But He's already forgiven us, and nothing can get in the way of that.

Where is the gospel?

The gospel is so simple even a child can understand it. But its depth and breadth are such that many people struggle to grasp its full ramifications. The basic gospel Paul's talking about here is that we are all sinners, unable to redeem ourselves; because of His great love for us, God sent Jesus into the world to pay the penalty sin requires; he died on our behalf and rose from the grave, defeating the power of sin. Anyone willing to submit to His authority and accept the gift of forgiveness He offers, is cleansed of all sin and brought into a love relationship with God. When we do this—when we quit trying to save ourselves and accept everything Jesus has done for us and follow Him as our Redeemer and Leader—we are cleansed of ALL our sin, forever. And God welcomes us into His presence. Forever!

As you prepare for this week, ask yourself questions like these: When Jesus died on the cross for my sin, how much of that sin had I committed yet? Is there a limit to how much of my sin Jesus paid for? Did he do this because of who I am, or because of who he is? Based on the scriptures, is it reasonable for me to feel as if I still owe God something for some of my sin? How is God calling me to depend on Him more? How is God calling me to respond based on this scripture?

Spend some time reading and meditating on these truths as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word. Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scriptures: John 8:36; 10:28; Romans 3:20-28; 4:25; 8:1, 30, 38-39; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; Galatians 2:16-17; 3:24; 1 John 1:9. What other places in scripture speak to this same truth?

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Romans 5:1-11
and meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation. Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective.

Consider the historical context:

1- The gospel was spreading throughout the known world like wildfire—praise the Lord! Because people are people, though, there was some confusion about it. So Paul wrote this letter to give both Jewish and Gentile Christ-followers a definitive overview of some of the most basic truths of the gospel.

2 – One thing many believers struggle with today is accepting the fact that ALL our sin is forgiven in Christ’s one act of propitiation (Romans 3:24-25), a reality that’s called “justification.” Why is that so hard to grasp? Might it have been just as difficult for people in the first century to accept it is today?

3 – Paul speaks of justification a lot, particularly in this letter. If you have time, read chapters 1-8, paying particular attention to references to justification in 3:20-30; 4:1-5, 23-25; 5:16-18; and 8:1, 30-39. Why do you think

POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your group discussion. Don’t feel like you need to answer all of these as a group

What seems to be the main point of this passage?

Review what the “therefore” in v. 1 is there for.

What is the difference between forgiveness and justification? (See 1 John 1:9, where both aspects of this are discussed.)

How does being justified give us peace with God?

What does it mean in v. 3 that we have “access by faith into this grace in which we stand”?

What does suffering (vv. 3-5) have to do with justification? For a Christ-follower, is suffering a punishment for sin? Should we be ashamed when we suffer?

How does our justification give us cause to rejoice, vv. 3, 11?

If you’ve put your faith in Christ, and you’re standing before God, and Satan accuses you of sin (Rev. 12:10), what is God’s response—even when the accusations are true?

What do you learn about God from this passage?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Did I have to clean up my act before Jesus forgave me for my sin?

After receiving forgiveness in Christ, am I required to keep myself free from sin?

If you’re a Christ-follower, ask yourself: Did God love me before I put my faith in Jesus? Does His love for me now depend on how faithfully I follow Him?

If you have not yet put your faith in Jesus as Forgiver and Leader, ask yourself: Does Jesus love me, right now, at this moment? Why would He love someone like me?

Whether a Christ-follower or not, ask yourself: What is my response to His undeserved love?

How is God calling you to obey, based on this passage?

With whom are you going to share what you have learned?

(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth and it blesses the one who hears it. Rom 10:17)

Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?