

He died for sinners!

Romans 5 – Leaders version

For a one hour study, just do the starred * questions

Check in – with the group sitting in a semi-circle go round and ask everyone, including leaders, how they are and how they're feeling about studying the Bible today.

What does the passage say and mean?

90 minutes

Read Romans 5:1-5.

*1. What is the result of being justified by faith, v1, and why is this a good thing?

Justified = made righteous / made right with God.

We have peace with God when when we have been justified by faith. Having peace with God means that we are no longer enemies of God and there is no longer any separation between us and God since sin no longer separates us from God. Thus we know that when we are judged the verdict is secure - forgiven.

NB God was never our enemy, we were his enemies.

*2. What does 'grace' mean? (v2)

The undeserved gift of salvation by faith alone. There is nothing we can do to earn or contribute to what Jesus did on the cross for us – all we can do is accept the gift.

*3. Read Romans 5:2-3. What does Paul rejoice in, and why?

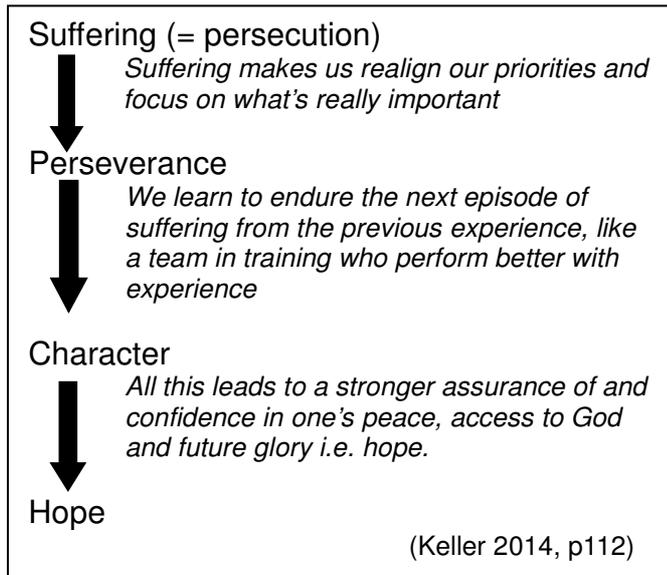
1. The hope of the glory of God – because it is so wonderful! He knows he is going to heaven. Biblical hope is not a wish, it's a promise that's already fulfilled, a future that is secure.

2. He rejoices in his sufferings. Paul isn't ranting at God because he is suffering for the sake of the gospel – he's rejoicing because God is using his suffering to help him grow.

*4. How does our suffering produce perseverance, perseverance produce character and character produce hope? (v3)

Explain that the Greek word translated suffering (thlipsis) refers to the opposition and persecution of a hostile world, not to all suffering that humans go through (Stott 2007, p141). Bear this in mind as you work on the

answer. It might help to write this on the flip-chart, looking for the following:



5. Read 2 Corinthians 11:23b-28 to remind the group of some of Paul's suffering. How does Paul see the positive in suffering? (Romans 5:3-5)

He recognises that suffering has something to teach him, and that suffering does not mean that God is out to get him / has abandoned him.

<p>? How can Paul's attitude to suffering help you when you suffer?</p>

6. What does Paul tell us about his hope in the gospel, in v5?

It does not disappoint him, because God is pouring out his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to us.

<p>*? Imagine you are on the trip of a lifetime to the moon, and you go on a daytrip in a landing pod with your own child, a dictator who has committed genocide, a priest and a little old lady who looks like butter wouldn't melt. An oxygen tank falls off and there isn't enough oxygen to get you all back to the shuttle. Someone has got to be left behind on the moon. Who will <u>you</u> leave behind and why?</p>

*7. Read Romans 5:6-8. Who did Jesus die for?

Jesus died not for the righteous, or the good, but for sinners – for those who recognise their unworthiness. (In fact, the 'righteous' and the 'good' are also sinners, but they don't recognise their sin).

*8. What is Paul saying about the depth of God's love for us?

Jesus didn't wait for us to be good or worthy (we never could be because we are sinners), or even repentant, before he came to save us – he died for us when we were still sinners. We don't deserve to be saved, it's all by his grace. Challenge the group: would they give up their lives for someone who had done something awful to them or their family? Does this help them to see just how much Jesus loves us, knowing that he died for us while we were in active rebellion against him?

9. Read Romans 5:9-10. Can you see what Paul is getting at?

Let the group try to work it out and then explain:

v9 – it's the 'now and not yet' tension of salvation – we have been justified (made right with God, saved from God's wrath), and on judgement day we will be saved from it.

v10 – now and not yet – we have been saved from guilt and condemnation by Jesus' death on the cross, and we are yet to be saved from indwelling sin and receive our new bodies at the resurrection of believers.

?

Do you trust Jesus to hold on to you all the way to your place in heaven? (See John 10:28)

Questions 10-12 are **SELF-DIRECTED QUESTIONS**. You need to write them on flip-chart sheets for the group to work on in pairs.

10. **SDL** Read Genesis 2:15-16 and Genesis 3:6. What was Adam's sin?

It's not eating fruit per se that is the problem – Adam's sin was disobedience / rebellion against God (as Romans 5:14). God had told Adam not to eat the fruit from that tree, but Adam saw it was good fruit so he made up his own mind about what was right and wrong.

The Bible credits the sin to Adam. We sometimes blame Eve but God blames Adam. God told Adam how to behave, Adam was expected to tell Eve. Adam lets Eve tell him that God is wrong, and he disobeys God.

11. **SDL** Read Romans 5:19. Whose were the acts of disobedience and obedience, and what did they result in?

Disobedience – Adam, many were made sinners.

Obedience – Jesus, many will be made righteous.

*12. **SDL** Read Romans 5:17. What was the result of Adam's sin and of Jesus' righteousness?

Adam's sin – death reigned over all. There was no death before sin – Genesis 2:17, 3:19, Romans 5:12. Jesus' righteousness – becomes ours! Not only do we have our sins forgiven, in God's grace our debt is cleared, and we are credited with Christ's righteousness. As Adam is our federal head in sin, Jesus is our federal head in righteousness – his righteousness becomes ours!

Note for leaders: the Greek says that we are not like Adam, but in Adam, meaning that Adam is our 'federal head' or representative and his sin speaks for us all. A similar relationship today might be a legal counsel speaking for us in court. What they say on our behalf is as our own words, they are our representative. Or a Prime Minister saying that we are at war with another country – everyone in the country is at war with that country, not just the Prime Minister. So Adam's sin is our sin.

13. Read Romans 3:20. Why did God give us his law?

The law makes us aware of our sin, pointing us to our sinfulness, which should drive us to Christ.

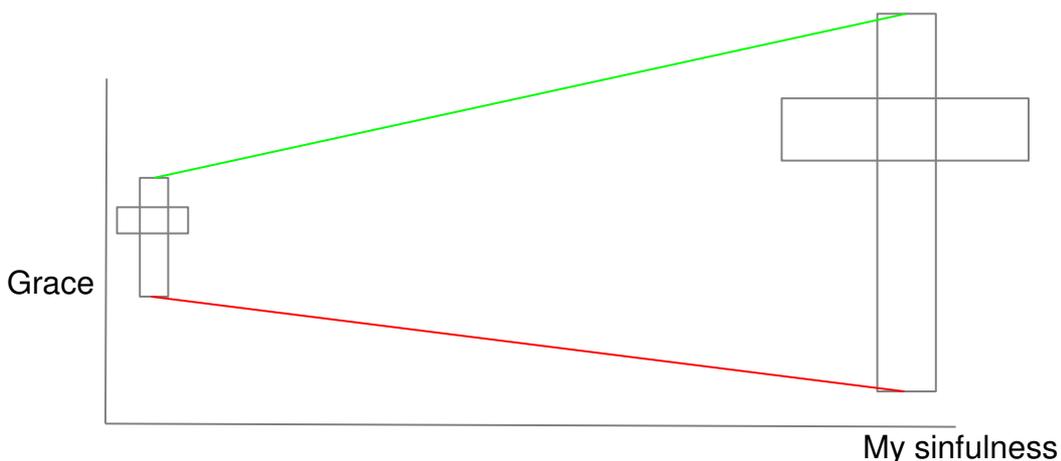
*14. As our awareness of the depth of our sin increases, how should we feel?

We should recognise more and more that we are unworthy to be in God's presence, because of our sin.

*15. What promise does Romans 5:20-21 make about our sin, in all its depths?

God's grace will always be able to cover our sin. There's nothing so bad that God can't forgive it (except unbelief).

As our understanding of the depth of our sinfulness increases, so our understanding of grace increases to cover it and our understanding of the cross grows. God will never run out of grace, no matter how much sin we bring to him. It might help to draw the following picture:



Check out – with the group sitting in a semi-circle go round and ask everyone, including leaders, how they found the study and if they are safe to go back to the cell.

He died for sinners!

Romans 5

What does the passage say and mean?

Read Romans 5:1-5.

1. What is the result of being justifieded by faith, v1, and why is this a good thing?
2. What does 'grace' mean? (v2)
3. Read Romans 5:2-3. What does Paul rejoice in, and why?
4. How does suffering produce perseverance, perseverance produce character and character produce hope? (v3)
5. Read 2 Corinthians 11:23b-28 to remind the group of some of Paul's suffering. How does Paul see the positive in suffering? (Romans 5:3-5)

?

How can this attitude to suffering help you when you suffer?

6. What does Paul tell us about his hope in the gospel, in v5?

?

Imagine you are on a trip of a lifetime to the moon, and you go on a daytrip in a landing pod with your own child, the dictator of a country who has committed genocide, a priest and a little old lady who looks like butter wouldn't melt. An oxygen tank falls off and there isn't enough oxygen to get you all back to the shuttle.

Someone has got to be left behind on the moon.

Who will you leave behind and why?

7. Read Romans 5:6-8. Who did Jesus die for?

8. What is Paul saying about the depth of God's love for us?

9. Read Romans 5:9-10. Can you see what Paul is getting at?

?

Do you trust Jesus to hold on to you all the way to your place in heaven? (See John 10:28)

10. **SDL** Read Genesis 2:15-16 and Genesis 3:6. What was Adam's sin?

11. **SDL** Read Romans 5:12 and 5:19. Whose were the acts of disobedience and obedience in v19, and what did they result in?

12. **SDL** Go back into Paul's diversion. Read Romans 5:17. What was the result of Adam's sin and of Jesus' righteousness?

13. Read Romans 5:20. Why did God give us his law?

14. As our awareness of the depth of our sin increases, how should we feel?

15. What promise does Romans 5:20-21 make about our sin, in all its depths?