



## **ROMANS CHAPTER 5 (FACILITATOR)**

### **Discussion Starter**

- Have you ever deserved a speeding or any other ticket, but the officer just gave you a warning? What did he or she say? How did you feel after?
- **Opening Prayer**
  - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

### **Breaking it Down**

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.
- Please use your own style, voice, and approach in preparing for leading your life group. Most importantly, take a few minutes to pray over the time together with your group and pray over each group member by name.

### **Tell the Story**

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

### **Read the Story (Romans 5:1-21)**

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

### **Romans 5:1-5**

- The language that Paul uses of "justified by/through faith" has a legal meaning behind it. It refers to individuals who were declared guilty by and under the law but then, they have that guilt removed and they are declared right and no longer guilty.

- Why is this fact/reality important for men and women of God to understand?
  - This is important for Christians to understand because many times, we seek to try and get God to love us through what we do. We try and make up for our bad, our guilt, and our shame by doing good and right things. The reality is that there isn't enough good that we as human beings can do to make up for our sin, our guilt, and our shame. Being declared right in the sight of God is not a matter of human effort or achievement but a matter of God's grace and mercy.
    - In what ways do you struggle to receive and embrace God's grace and mercy? What practices can help remind you to more fully receive and embrace God's grace and mercy?
      - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- Notice some of the remarkable and amazing "benefits" and "promises" attached to being justified through faith by God's power.
  - We can have peace with God: This peace has everything to do with our moment by moment surrender because we have allowed God to declare victory over our entire lives. We no longer have to live hopeless and purposeless lives.
  - We can stand in grace: We don't have to prove ourselves to God or anyone else. We don't need to try and work for God's love. We don't have to seek to earn God's favor and His merit. We get to live from places of wholeness and completeness.
  - We have access to God: Not only have we been reconciled (brought back into a right relationship) with God, but we can also have great confidence and boldness to enter God's presence constantly and consistently.
  - We get to live in hope: We don't live in the world in desensitized and detached ways. Rather, we get to remember and live that Jesus has claimed the victory regardless of what's taking place within us and around us.
    - Which of the above do you struggle most to consistently remember and live out? Why?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Romans 5:6-11**

- Why are the words “while” or “when” important in verses 6-8?

- God loved you and me before we got our junk and baggage together. In fact, you and I still don't have our junk and baggage together. God's love doesn't ignore our junk and baggage but rather God's love, grace, and mercy fill in every single gap where we are lacking and deficient.

- In what ways do you need to remember more fully who you used to be outside of Jesus, so you don't get arrogant and lose sight what God has done and is doing for you?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- As a group, take 1-2 minutes in silence to consider what God did for you before you were forgiven, before Jesus died on the cross. He loved you. He sent Jesus. Now, take some time to reflect on the following question. If God loved us and sent Jesus before we were even forgiven, why should we be filled with even greater hope now?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Romans 5:12-21**

- In this section of Scripture, notice that Paul is not at all shying away from the fact that sin, death, and all people sinning are in fact real issues and problems. Rather, he is highlighting the fact that if sin entered the world through one man and wreaked havoc and destruction, imagine what Jesus Christ's sacrificial death rooted in love can do in the entire world.

- In what ways do you need to be more hopeful about the world around you?

- In what ways do you need to be more hopeful about the Church today?

- In what ways do you need to be more hopeful about your family? In what ways do you need to be more hopeful about yourself?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

**Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

**Closing & Prayer Requests**

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Romans chapter 6)

## ROMANS CHAPTER 5 (STUDENT)

### **Read the Story (Romans 5:1-21)**

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

### **Romans 5:1-5**

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  - Why is this fact/reality important for men and women of God to understand?
    - In what ways do you struggle to receive and embrace God’s grace and mercy? What practices can help remind you to more fully receive and embrace God’s grace and mercy?
- Notice some of the remarkable and amazing “benefits” and “promises” attached to being justified through faith by God’s power.
  - We can have peace with God: This peace has everything to do with our moment by moment surrender because we have allowed God to declare victory over our entire lives. We no longer have to live hopeless and purposeless lives.
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  - In what ways do you need to remember more fully who you used to be outside of Jesus, so you don’t get arrogant and lose sight what God has done and is doing for you?
  
- As a group, take 1-2 minutes in silence to consider what God did for you before you were forgiven, before Jesus died on the cross. He loved you. He sent Jesus. Now, take some time to reflect on the following question. If God loved us and sent Jesus before we were even forgiven, why should we be filled with even greater hope now?

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  - In what ways do you need to be more hopeful about the world around you?
  - In what ways do you need to be more hopeful about the Church today?
  - In what ways do you need to be more hopeful about your family? In what ways do you need to be more hopeful about yourself?

### **Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
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