

**WARM-UP**

- Recall the last time you completed a project. How did you feel once it was done?
- Share about a time when a specific reward enabled you to be patient. What happened?
- What is something you are hoping for in the next two to three weeks?

**WORD** *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **ROMANS 5:1***

(Read also **ROMANS 5:1–11.**)

Paul explained that those who believe in Christ have been made righteous not because of anything they've done, but because of what Christ has done for them. He went on to say that not only do the believers have God's righteousness, but they also have peace with Him. Paul encouraged the believers to know God and experience the fullness of life in Him. And this is also true for us who put our faith in Christ. Let us look at what we can have in Christ, now that we have been reconciled to God.

## 1 | We can have peace with God.

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.* **ROMANS 5:1**

The word “peace” used in this passage is the Greek word *eirene* which refers to the state of well-being that results from the salvation we received in Christ. We used to be God’s enemies, but now that we have been reconciled to God through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, we can enjoy and grow in our relationship with Him. We have the assurance that God is taking good care of us. How does having peace with God affect your life?

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## 2 | We can hope in God.

*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.*

**ROMANS 5:2**

Because we have been reconciled with God, we can tap into His grace. Through Jesus, we can now *rejoice in hope of the glory of God*. This means that we can be confident and look forward to the victory that we have in Him. Jesus did not only reconcile us with God, but also gave us the assurance that we shall *be saved by His life* (Romans 5:10). This refers to our future salvation where we get to spend eternity with God, and also to being saved from the difficulties we face today. How is this hope seen in your life?

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### 3 | We can have joy in spite of suffering.

*Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance . . .* **ROMANS 5:3**

Now that we have been reconciled with God, we can have complete joy despite our sufferings. This is because we know that what we experience on earth is temporary. Ultimately, we have victory in God. Our joy is anchored on the truth that Jesus' sacrifice saved us from the wrath of God and put His favor upon us (Romans 5:9). In fact, the trials and sufferings we experience are for the strengthening of our character. What does 1 Peter 5:10 promise to those who are suffering?

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#### APPLICATION

- What area in your life is God strengthening through the challenges you face? What can you do this week in response to what God is showing you?
- Knowing that God's favor is upon you, what will you do differently as you face trials and difficulties?
- Share the peace that you have in God with a friend or family member. Ask Him for wisdom to say the right words that will encourage him or her to seek and follow Him and experience His peace.

