

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. Romans 5:1-2



When something goes wrong unexpectedly what's your default response?

"I've got a plan" "If I don't look at it, it will go away" "I've already rehearsed 17 worse case scenarios" "I think it's time for some cake/a snack" "It's fine, everything is fine"

1. Read Romans 5:1-5
 - According to Romans 5:1 what is the basis of our peace with God?
 - What did Jesus specifically do?
 - What is significant about the peace of God being a finished reality for us and not just a feeling? (Romans 5:1, Colossians 1:20, Ephesians 2:14-15)
2. Romans 5:2 says we stand in grace – what does it mean to “stand” on something?
 - What's the difference between living for approval vse living from acceptance?
 - Where do you still feel pressure to “perform”?
 - What would change if all followers of Christ truly believed they were already secure in Christ?
3. In Romans 5:3-4 we are called to rejoice in our sufferings – why do we naturally try to escape pressure instead of grow through it?
 - What accounts in the Bible show us people who triumphed through suffering?
 - Can you share when a hardship has brought growth in your life?

4. How is hope described in Hebrews 6:19?
 - What are some common things people place their hope in? (success, health, fitness, money, people)
 - Why do these things ultimately fail? (Matt 6:19-21 may help)
 - What does it practically look like to anchor your hope in God instead?

5. According to Romans 5:5 what evidence is there that God loves us?
 - How does Holy Spirit practically help believers experience God's love? (John 14:16-17 may help)
 - Think through Romans 5:5 where it says God's love is "poured into your heart"... how does that change how you handle disappointment or challenges?

6. When pressure hits this week, what is one practical way you can pause and remember the truths we have learnt this week?

7. Which of the following truths do you need to remember and claim for you present situation?
 - I have peace with God
 - I stand in grace
 - My pain has purpose
 - My hope will not disappointExplain why.

7. This week, when pressure hits:
 - Where do you tend to panic, resolve or try to control the situation?
 - What would it look like to pause and respond differently?

Try this simple shift:

- Instead of thinking: *How do I get out of this?*
Ask: *God, what are You growing in me through this?*

