

# *God's Love: Christ*

## TEACHING NOTES

### KEY VERSES

Romans 5:1-21

### KEY THEMES

Faith brings joy

Identity rooted in Christ

 **Peace with God (Romans 5:1)**

 **Access to God (Romans 5:2a)**

 **Our standing with God (Romans 5:2b)**

 **Our rejoicing in hope of glory (Romans 5:2c)**

 **Our rejoicing in tribulation (Romans 5:3-4)**

 **God's love for us (Romans 5:5-6)**

 **Christ died for us (Romans 5:7-9)**

 **Freed from sin (Romans 5:10-11)**

 **Adam and Christ (Romans 5:12-21)**

Sin and death

One act

Abundant grace

**Lesson objective:**

*To see all that we've been given in our new position in Christ*

**PERSONAL STUDY****Study 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Take time to focus on God and what He has for you during this intentional time with Him.

**Human suffering**

Finish this thought, *human suffering is caused by...*

What is the worldly explanation of human suffering?

Scripture recognizes trials and suffering much differently. Read the scriptures listed below and identify the following for each passage.

As Christ followers, what should our response be to trials and tribulations?

What do trials and tribulations produce?

**1 Peter 4:12-14**

Our response should be:

Trials and tribulations produce:

**James 1:2-4**

Our response should be:

Trials and tribulations produce:

 **Romans 5:1-5**

Our response should be:

Trials and tribulations produce:

There is a purpose for tribulations in the life of a Christ follower. Just as steel is tempered through extreme heat in order to achieve greater strength, God allows the believer to be tempered in order for us to be refined. In the Christian life we know that we are complete in Christ, yet we know God has a plan to transform us into His likeness and deepen our relationship with Him.

 **Reread Romans 5:1-5**

What are the products of each phase of the tempering process described by Paul?

Suffering/trials produces \_\_\_\_\_

Endurance produces \_\_\_\_\_

Strength of character produces \_\_\_\_\_

Hope is confident expectation that God is doing a work in us to mold us into the image of Christ.

Have you seen God building your character from when you first became a Christ follower? Are there areas where He is removing impurities and making you stronger? Where have you seen God tempering you?

**Key verse**

Commit Romans 5:8 to memory.

*But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

**Prayer time**

Reflect on times when you have had trials in your life. List specific ways that you have seen God be faithful in producing strength of character in you through those trials. Spend some time in prayer, thanking God that He is doing a work in your life, a work that is strengthening your faith. Ask God to help you rejoice in your trials knowing He is increasingly transforming you into the image of Christ.

**Session 2****Prepare your heart and mind**

Begin by asking God to focus your mind on Him. Ask Him to help you grasp what He has done for you by giving you new life in Him.

When a person places their faith in what God has done through Jesus they are not only declared righteous before God but they also have a new life in Jesus. This concept is hard for us to grasp and live out. The goal of this study is to help us gain a better understand of the new life we have in Jesus Christ.

**Who are you?****Read Romans 5:12-21**

In order to live in the freedom God has given us, we need to constantly be mindful of who God says we are and how He sees us.

When a couple gives birth to a child they are so proud of their new baby. As the child grows up they will do things that go against what their parents desire. Even in the midst of the child's wrong doings they are still considered a part of the family. This is because their birth was determined by their parents and not by them.

God does the same for us. He extends the offer of salvation by faith to everyone. When a person believes and accepts this incredible gift, they are given a new birth and declared by God as his daughter or son. This is their new identity in Christ. Before this new birth they were seen by God as belonging to Adam and separated forever from God.

Do you think of yourself as being in God's family and blameless in His sight? Or do you more often evaluate yourself in light of other people, feeling good or bad depending on the person you are comparing yourself with?

We will continue to be greatly hindered in our ability to live our new life in Christ if we don't see ourselves through God's eyes. Yes, we are going to continue to give in to our sinful nature. But God wants to help us see the new life and power we have in Christ. Part of the problem is that we focus on our earthly lives, letting them dictate how we see ourselves. It's much like the convicted felon who has experienced true reform yet others still treat them like a convict. God says we no longer have to be defined or controlled by our sin.

Do you think God views you differently when you give into your sin nature compared to when you lean on the power of the Holy Spirit and don't give in?

### Who we were vs. who we are

This chart helps to point out the distinction between who we were in Adam and who we are now in Christ.

	Before in Adam	Now in Christ
What we inherit	The presence, penalty, and power of sin	Deliverance from the penalty and power of sin and one day completely free from the presence of sin
How God sees us	Condemned as sinners	Declared righteous as children of God
The state of our lives	Slaves to our sin nature and unable to be saved by being good enough	Brought into right standing with God and sin's power broken in our lives New life through Christ and the power of God's Spirit in us
What awaits	Judgment and condemnation because of sin that leads to death	Justification by faith to all who believe
What our future holds	Death and eternal separation from God	Full and eternal life in God's presence

When you read through these lists, what stands out to you?

What keeps you from finding more of your identity in Christ? What are some of the lies the enemy tries to get you to believe?

**Key verse**

Continue working to memorize Romans 5:8. Attempt to write it out from memory.

**Prayer time**

As you spend some time talking with God, ask Him to show you where you need to grow in finding your life through Christ. Discuss with Him the areas where you struggle to believe what He has already done for you or your ability to see yourself as completely forgiven.

## PARENT GUIDE

This Parent Guide will help you dig into Romans 5, draw your attention to two great truths, and give you some tools to discuss them with your family. The two truths are joy and trials. These topics aren't usually connected but Paul brings them together in an incredible way.

Ask your kids what the words *joy* and *trials* mean.

Read Romans 5:3-4 aloud and ask them to listen for the words you just discussed.

Reread verse 3 and ask the following questions:

How difficult is it for us to rejoice when we have trials?

*(Typically we don't find joy in the midst of trials but this verse is challenging us to change our perspective and see it the way that God sees it. A trial can help us grow in our walk and that is something to get excited about because we are growing to be more like Jesus.)*

What do you think is the point of trials? What do they do for us?

*(According to this verse a trial helps us develop endurance. Endurance is something that happens over time with repeated activity. It should allow tasks to become easier the more time we spend doing them and developing the appropriate habits and skills.)*

Reread verse 4 and ask the following questions:

What should endurance lead us to and why is that a good thing?

*(Endurance should lead us to stronger character. Character is a foundational part of how we go about making choices. The more we grow to be like Jesus the more our choices should line up with the way He wants us to live.)*

What should building our character lead to and why is that important?

*(Character should strengthen our confident hope of salvation. This is a great moment to stop and talk about hope. Do your children have hope and where does it come from? This is a great moment for you as a parent to share from your own heart about where your hope comes from and how it affects you. Our hope should be rooted in our salvation. Having a working knowledge of salvation and what that means is critical because it should produce a confident hope.)*

Take time to pray for one another. If you have younger children this is a great time to model prayer for them. Try to keep it simple so they see that prayer is a simple conversation with God.



**ADDITIONAL STUDY****Read Romans 6:1-14****Observation**

*(Who? When? Where? Why? What does it say? What do I notice?)*

**Interpretation**

*(What are the key themes or truths? What is the writer's intended meaning? What is the context? What questions do I have?)*

**Application**

*(How do I apply it? What does this mean for me?)*

