

Weekend Message: *Hi Def PEACE* **Romans 4:16-5:11**

Pray each day, before you ***Dive In*** to God's word, that God the Holy Spirit, will be the teacher of your mind and heart. Pray for the ***friends*** in your Life Team to be faithful to study and receive God's truth for themselves today.

Life Team Ice Breaker – (see Last Page)

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DAY ONE

Peace is hard to come by in our fast-paced world. We try to grab a little here and there between obligations, deadlines and noise. In contrast to the guilt and brokenness that results from the sin we saw pictured in the first 3 chapters of Romans, it's pretty amazing to now hear his promise of peace. Peace is far more than the absence of conflict or stress. In fact you can have peace in the middle of a war, because true, biblical peace is what God creates in you when you allow Him to put everything in your life in proper order.

1. Read Romans 4:16 – 5:11. After reading and studying Romans 4, summarize your understanding righteousness by grace through faith.
2. Vs. 17 What is it that is NOT in your life right now that you want God to "as though it is?" ...anything that is dead that you wish He would make ALIVE? For ideas check out I Cor. 1:18-31; II Cor. 4:11-12; II Cor. 5:1, 6-10; Hebrews 10:35-11:2; Eph. 2:4-5.
3. When have you had to "hope against hope?" What fears and doubts did you struggle with?
4. Why is it hard to trust God at the level Abraham did? Where do you need to exercise more faith in your life right now?

DAY TWO

5. How were you formerly God's enemy?

6. What's your general attitude toward suffering? Why is it that we can rejoice in suffering? Vs. 2

7. Vs. 3-5 describes a sequence that moves from suffering to hope. When have you ever seen that in yourself or in someone else?

6. Vs. 2 tells us we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Get quiet with God – don't even pray – simply spend some time drinking in the peace that is yours because of Christ. Then pray to God with your response to that gift. In your group time, be prepared to discuss how that felt?

DAY THREE

8. In vs. 2 & 5, how is this hope different than the "wishful hope" we sometimes use in daily conversation?

9. Describe the work of Christ as you see it in vs. 6-11.

10. What do you think Paul means by the word "reconciliation" in this passage?

DAY FOUR

11. What grounds do you find in vs. 6-11 that gives you confidence about what God can do in you through suffering? Vs 3-5

12. How does faith enable a Christian to let his suffering produce hope, rather than bitterness or despair?

What should you do the next time you're tempted to grumble or despair?

13. What kinds of things tend to stop you from experiencing the hope of glory with joy and exultation?

DAY FIVE

14. What can you do this week to stay focused on your reasons for joy?

15. What is the simplicity of the gospel (good news) message in vs. 8-10? When did you first experience this?

What role will your Life Team play in Third Saturday, this week form 8:30 AM – 12:30?

- Giving blood?
- Learning about being a mentor?
- Painting curbs at Douglas High?
- Working outdoors or cleaning out the (cold) barn at the City of Refuge?
- Learning about after school Good News Clubs at local public elementary schools?

ICEBREAKERS – Don't feel you have to use them all. Using at least one helps people get comfortable with each other and opens them up to sharing.

A. What has been the happiest day in your life to date? Describe your feelings at that moment?

___ My wedding day ___ The birth of a child ___ A great achievement

___ The day I became a follower of Christ ___ The moment I realized what my purpose is in life.

___ Other _____

B. When you have a low point or a stressful time in your life, what do you do to find peace, release stress, or get centered?