

# ***“Get Connected” Interactive Discussion Guide***

## ***This Week’s Core Virtue—Peace***

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, myself, and others.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)**

## ***This Week’s SERVICE Focus—Spiritual Formation***

We will assess regularly our own personal development as *disciples of Jesus Christ, affirm our strengths and confess our struggles to one another, and set personal goals for our growth in Christ.*

### **Option 1—Growth Group Study: Romans 5:1-11**

(Plan 30 minutes for your “study time” by focusing on the \* questions. If you need to fill out or add to your discussion, select other questions. However, be sure to leave time for “SERVICE” and prayer.)

#### **Open It**

1. What circumstances can turn two people into enemies?
2. \*How do most people treat their enemies?
3. What results can difficult circumstances have in a person’s life?

#### **Explore It**

4. What is the basis for our justification with God? ([5:1](#))
5. What is our relationship with God if we have been justified by faith? ([5:1](#))
6. How does Jesus Christ change a person’s standing with God? ([5:2](#))
7. For what reasons can a Christian rejoice? ([5:2-3](#))
8. What good things can result from suffering? ([5:3-5](#))
9. Why does hope not disappoint us? ([5:5](#))
10. How has God demonstrated His love for us? ([5:6-8](#))
11. What comparisons can be made between people giving their lives for others and Christ’s death for all people? ([5:7-8](#))
12. \*What was our relationship to God when Christ came to die for us? ([5:8](#))
13. What aspect of Christ’s death justifies a person in God’s sight? ([5:9](#))
14. \*How did God act to remove the barrier between Himself and all people? ([5:9-10](#))
15. If God has demonstrated His love to us through Jesus’ death, what can we anticipate concerning our future relationship with God? ([5:10](#))
16. \*For what reasons can a Christian rejoice? ([5:11](#))

#### **Get It**

17. How is peace with God different from peace of mind?
18. \*What does it mean to be justified?
19. \*How were we formerly God’s enemies?
20. What are the benefits of being justified with God?
21. What is the connection between suffering and hope?
22. How should Christian hope affect a person’s attitude toward his or her current circumstances or goals?
23. What is hope?
24. What keeps us from being full of joy and hope in the middle of difficult circumstances?
25. In what ways does suffering produce endurance?
26. How can suffering produce positive rather than negative results?
27. How did Jesus’ death affect our security in God’s love?

#### **Apply It**

28. In what difficult circumstances do you need to stop grumbling and stay focused on joy in Christ?
29. \*Who in your life needs to hear that through Jesus Christ they are no longer enemies with God?

### **Option 2—Discussion of Sunday’s Sermon**

- What did you like?
- What did you not like?
- What did you not understand?
- How does it reinforce this week’s core commitment?
- What do you want to do in response?
- What do we want to do in response?
- What will you take away?

### **Option 3—Relate Your Study to Our Core Commitments**

- What Core Commitment(s) does our study reinforce?
- What can we learn from this passage about this week’s Core Commitments?
- How can we live this passage individually? As a group?
- What do we agree to do in response to this passage?