



## **SUMMARY**

*Big Idea: Our Right Standing with God Makes us into a Rejoicing and Resilient People*

God's past actions yields present and ongoing benefits in the life of a believer. Specifically, God's past work of salvation (justification by faith alone, v1), yields the benefits of peace with God, access into grace, hope-filled joy in the midst of sufferings. This joy fuels endurance, steadfastness through suffering, as we are reminded not merely of the glories yet to come, but of the love of God communicated to us through the Holy Spirit.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **Read Romans 5:1-5**

1. Paul, in Romans 5 desires for God's people to be both full of joy and resilient, especially while enduring sufferings.
  - a. Discuss where you see this in the text.
2. Looking back over the last year, how would you rate yourself on a scale of 1-4 (1=weak, 4=strong) in the following 2 areas:
  - a. Rejoicing (1-4)
  - b. Resilient (1-4)
3. Discuss. Why did you give yourself that score? Would your spouse or close friends in the group agree or give a different score?
4. Why do you think both joy and resiliency are needed? Is it possible to have one without the other? What does lack of one say about a perceived strength in the other?
5. According to the verses, how is joy in the midst of suffering possible? What makes this hard? Have you experienced this?
6. Of the many benefits that right standing with God brings (discuss from verses 1-5), which one for you stands out as most pertinent for your soul today?
7. Which benefit do you pray occupies more of your heart and mind in the upcoming year?
  - a. How can you cultivate this in your life?
8. As a group, spend some time reflecting over the last year. How have you seen God at work in your group? Where do you sense opportunities for growth in the upcoming year?