



Restored Relationship

Session 4 • Romans 5:1-11, 18-21



ENGAGE

PREPARE: On a focal wall, display **Pack Item 5** (Poster: Key Verse: Romans 5:19). Make copies of **Pack Item 9** (Handout: *Praying Scripture in Romans*). Gather several Bible dictionaries.

INTRODUCE: Direct the group to read the opening paragraph on page 37 to themselves. Encourage them to reflect on times when they have been on either side of the adult-child conversation.

REFLECT: **When have you seen reconciliation in action lately? With whom have you sought reconciliation?** (p. 37)

DISCUSS: Draw two columns on the board or a large sheet of paper: *Forgive others* and *Seek Forgiveness*. Encourage adults to share which one they feel is easier and why. Record their thoughts in the appropriate column. Point out that every person needs to be reconciled to God.

TRANSITION: *Through today's focal verses, Paul gave believers reasons to rejoice in Christ because we have been reconciled with God through faith in Him.*

EXPLORE THE TEXT

OVERVIEW: Read Romans 4:3. Remind adults that Paul taught that everyone needs to be reconciled to God, but that this reconciliation cannot be earned by good works. Note that he pointed to Abraham as a prime example of someone who was made righteous by faith, not works.

READ: **Invite a volunteer to read aloud Romans 5:1-5** as the group identifies blessings found in these verses. Point out that the first word in Romans 5:1 is “therefore,” indicating that Paul’s message here was an extension of his teaching on justification in earlier chapters.

GUIDE: Encourage adults to share the blessings they noticed as they read the verses and record their responses on the board. Group adults into three teams and give each team a Bible dictionary. Assign each team either *peace*, *grace*, or *hope*. Instruct each team to scan the definition in the dictionary and to discuss how believers and non-believers might use the term differently. (Note: For larger groups, create more teams and allow more than one team to research the same term. For smaller groups, an individual can be a team.) After a few minutes, allow volunteers to recap their discussion.

HIGHLIGHT: Draw attention to the reality of suffering for those who belong to Christ. Affirm that being a believer does not free us from facing afflictions in this life:

- **(5:3)** Believers can rejoice in suffering because they know God is at work through it. Paul explained that suffering for the gospel produces endurance, which shapes character and leads to hope. This hope is a steady confidence that God's purposes cannot be undone by any circumstance (Rom. 8:28).

ASK: How does “peace with God” affect your life today and in eternity? (p. 39)

SHARE: *Paul said that the hope God provides is grounded in His love for us. Through His Spirit, He covers us with that love. And, as we learn to embrace His love for us, our hope keeps growing.*

READ: Read aloud **Romans 5:6-11** as the group listens for how God proves His love for humanity.

ASK: Who would you be willing to die for? How do those individuals compare to people you consider your enemies? (p. 39)

HIGHLIGHT: Share how Paul emphasized God's illogical love for the human race:

- **(5:6-8)** Jesus's death for ungodly people defies human logic. While someone might rarely die for a good person—or willingly sacrifice for a loved one or the innocent—no one chooses suffering for an enemy. Yet that is what God did. Christ died for us for one reason alone: God's love, fully displayed at the cross.

ASK: How does Jesus's death prove His love for humanity? (p. 39)

SUMMARIZE: Lead the group to share how they would summarize Romans 5:8 in ten words or less. Emphasize “still sinners.” Remind adults that Jesus didn't wait for us to improve ourselves or reach a certain spiritual landmark. Affirm that He met us where we are by dying for sinners, enemies of God.

ASK: How should we respond to this awesome gift of justification and reconciliation with God? (p. 39)



Salvation

What does it mean that we have been saved, are being saved, and will be saved, according to Scripture? Scan here to learn more.

READ: Invite a volunteer to read **Romans 5:18-21** while the group considers the contrast between Adam and Jesus.

DISCUSS: On a whiteboard draw a two-column chart. Label one column *Adam* and the other *Jesus*. Lead a brief discussion on what the verses say about each one. Record responses on the chart.

REVIEW: Summarize the following to highlight how Jesus's death overcame the curse of Adam's sin:

- **(5:19)** Adam's disobedience sent consequences rippling across all humanity, placing everyone under the certainty of God's judgment. In stark contrast, Christ's

obedience shone with the hope of eternal life. Through His obedience, Jesus changed everything, becoming the perfect sacrifice for our sinful disobedience.

GUIDE: Direct attention to **Pack Item 5** (*Poster: Key Verse: Romans 5:19*). Read the verse aloud together as a group. Distribute a sticky note and pen to each person, encouraging them to copy the verse and place it in their Bible to focus on memorizing.

ASK: How do I know Jesus's death was meant for me? (p. 39)

TRANSITION: Affirm that what Adam lost, Jesus restored. Distribute copies of **Pack Item 9** (*Handout: Praying Scripture in Romans*) or encourage use of the **Explore the Bible Prayer Guide** (QR code on p. 15). Encourage adults to pray Romans 5:19 back to God.

CHALLENGE

SUMMARIZE: Review these points from this week's Bible study passage:

- Believers should embrace their new relationship with God.
- Individuals can be reconciled to God thanks to the loving sacrifice Jesus offered on the cross.
- Our lives can be transformed by the matchless grace of Jesus.

EVALUATE: Using a scale of one to five, with one being "seldom" and five being "often," direct adults to respond to these statements:

- My attitude toward myself reflects my relationship with Christ.
- Knowing I am reconciled with God affects my daily life.
- It is easy for others to see that my life has been transformed by the matchless grace of Jesus.

DISCUSS: Lead a brief discussion on the **Apply the Text** activity on page 39.

PRAY: Refer back to **Pack Item 5** (*Poster: Key Verse: Romans 5:19*). Encourage the group to use **Pack Item 9** (*Handout: Praying Scripture in Romans*) or the **Explore the Bible Prayer Guide** as they continue praying through that verse this week. Close the session in prayer, thanking God for sending Jesus as Savior and asking Him to reveal opportunities to share the gospel with someone else during the week.

AFTER THE SESSION

Send the group a text or email during the week to focus on the **Apply the Text** questions on page 43. Encourage them to evaluate their walk with Jesus honestly and to consider the difference He should make in their lives each day. Consider calling any adults who have not attended this quarter. Share what has been covered in Romans to this point and encourage them to join the group for the next session.