



**Pastor Rich Harris**  
**Living By Faith Part 4— Hope in the hard places**  
**9.19.2021**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

**Romans 5:5 (ESV)**

**5** and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**1. Jesus died for the ungodly**

**Romans 5:6 (ESV)**

**6** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

**Romans 5:7**

**7** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—

## Romans 5:8

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### 2. Jesus died for sinners

## Luke 18:9-14 (ESV)

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: **10** “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11** The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. **12** I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ **13** But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ **14** I tell you, **this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other.** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

## Mark 2:17

**17** “...I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

## Romans 5:9-10 (ESV)

9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

### 3. Jesus died for His enemies

### **Matthew 27:27-31, Luke 23:33-34 (ESV)**

**27** Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. **28** And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, **29** and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" **30** And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. **31** And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him... **33** And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. **34** And Jesus said, **"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."**

### **Romans 5:1-2 (ESV)**

**1** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and **we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

### **John 16:33 (NLT)**

**33** I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth **you will have many trials and sorrows.** But take heart, because **I have overcome the world.**"

### **Romans 5:3-5 (ESV)**

**3** Not only that, but we **rejoice in our sufferings**, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and **hope** does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**When we allow God to work *in* and *through* our suffering, it starts a God-guided process that anchors us in the hope of the glory of God.**

***dokimē: tested character; proof that something is genuine, valuable***

**1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT) [BAND UP]**

**6** So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. **7** These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

**Romans 8:18 (ESV)**

**18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

**2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)**

**17** For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison...

**John 14:1-3 (ESV)**

**“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. **2** In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”**

**Revelation 21:1-4 (NLT)**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. **2** And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

**3** I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. **4** He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”

## **FOR MONDAY—**

1. Pray and ask God to fill you with hope over your suffering and trials.
2. Think back, how has God used trials for character growth? What do you need to do to welcome God into your suffering?

### **TALK IT THROUGH**

1. Have you hoped for something, but it wasn’t fulfilled? How did that feel? How did you navigate that disappointment?
2. What deception have been living under that you need to let Jesus break off and reveal himself to you regarding?
3. John 16:33. How does this give you perspective with the trials and sorrows we aren’t exempt from?
4. Are you facing suffering that you are wincing away from vs. welcoming God into?
5. Romans 5:3-5. How do you rejoice in suffering? Why should we?