SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Romans

Chapter 5

Peace with God, and the Reign of Grace

MEMORY VERSE · ROMANS 5:8

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Romans 5

This week Paul stops arguing and starts counting what a man has once God has declared him right: peace, access, hope, and a love that came for him while he was still an enemy. Romans 5 asks you to stop living like a man waiting on a verdict and start living from the one God has already given. Whatever has reigned in your story, grace has come to take the throne.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Romans study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Peace, Access, and a Hope That Holds

READ · ROMANS 5:1–5

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List everything verses 1–5 say a justified man "has" or does. How many times does the word "through" or "by faith" show you where it all comes from?

REFLECT

Paul says "we have peace with God" (v. 1) — the war is over, not just the worry. Where do you still act as if you and God were on opposite sides, and what would change if you believed the fight was finished?

REFLECT

Walk one real trouble you are in right now through the chain of verses 3–4 — tribulation, perseverance, proven character, hope. Which link are you standing on today, and what is God building in you there?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the trouble that is pressing on you most this week. Then pray verse 5 over it: ask God to pour out His love in your heart by His Spirit right in the middle of it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 5:8)

DAY 2 OF 5

While We Were Yet Sinners

READ · ROMANS 5:6–11

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Find the four words Paul uses to describe us before God's love reached us (vv. 6, 8, 10). Write them in order. What did Christ do for each one?

REFLECT

Paul says Christ died for us "while we were yet sinners" (v. 8) — not after we cleaned up. What part of you still believes God's love has to be earned, or that you were not really that lost?

REFLECT

Verses 9–10 argue "much more": if God made peace with His enemies through Christ's death, He will much more keep His friends through Christ's life. How does that answer the fear that your next fall could be your last?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank God out loud, by name, for one thing He loved you through before you ever turned to Him. Then do what verse 11 does — spend five minutes rejoicing in God Himself, not just in what He gives.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 5:8)

DAY 3 OF 5

Through One Man Sin Entered

READ · ROMANS 5:12–14

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Trace the path of verse 12: what entered the world, through whom, what came with it, and how far did it spread? What "reigned" from Adam until Moses (v. 14)?

REFLECT

Paul says "death reigned" (v. 14) like a king over a kingdom. Where have you watched death reign — in an addiction, a family, a friendship, a body, years lost — and what does it tell you about how serious sin really is?

REFLECT

Adam is called "a type of Him who was to come" (v. 14) — one man whose act counted for everyone joined to him. Why might God tell us the bad news about Adam right before the good news about Christ?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write one sentence naming a place where death has reigned in your life. Hand it to God in prayer, and ask Him to show you this week what Christ's reign looks like in that very place.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 5:8)

DAY 4 OF 5

Much More: The One Man and the One Man

READ · ROMANS 5:15–19

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Make two columns, “Adam” and “Christ.” For each verse from 15 to 19, write what came through Adam and what came through Christ.

REFLECT

Paul keeps saying “the free gift is not like the transgression” (vv. 15–16). In what ways is the gift bigger and stronger than the sin it answers — and which of your “many transgressions” (v. 16) do you most need to hear that about?

REFLECT

Verse 17 says the abundance of grace goes to “those who receive.” What are you still trying to earn from God that He is simply holding out for you to take?

RESPOND — TODAY

Read verse 19 slowly and put your own name in it. Then tell one brother this week, in your own words, what it means that your standing with God rests on Christ’s obedience and not your record.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 5:8)

DAY 5 OF 5

Where Sin Increased, Grace Abounded

READ · ROMANS 5:20–21

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Why does verse 20 say the Law "came in"? Name the two kings in verse 21 — what does each one reign in, and where does each reign end?

REFLECT

"where sin increased, grace abounded all the more" (v. 20). How do you hear that on your worst day, and how is it different from saying sin doesn't matter (look ahead to 6:1–2)?

REFLECT

Grace reigns "through righteousness" (v. 21) — not by ignoring sin but by dealing with it at the cross. Where in your life do you need grace to rule, not just to rescue?

RESPOND — TODAY

Look back over this week's five readings and circle the one gift from Romans 5 you most need to live from — peace, access, hope, love poured out, rescue, or reconciliation. Write a short prayer thanking God for it and bring it to the group.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 5:8)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Paul says we "exult" three times — in hope (v. 2), in our tribulations (v. 3), and in God (v. 11). Which of the three comes hardest for you right now, and what would help you get there?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Verse 6 says Christ died "at the right time." Looking back on your own story, how do you see God's timing in the way He reached you?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Every man is counted in one of two men — Adam or Christ (vv. 18–19). How would you explain that to a man who has never heard it, using your own life as the example?

MY PRAYER

Father, You loved me while I was still Your enemy and gave me peace through Jesus, so today I bring You…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ROMANS 5:8

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."