



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM CURRICULUM GUIDE WEEK 11: MARCH 22 & 25

LEADER INFO:

Check your email and mailbox to receive an invitation to our Disciple Group Leader/Coach Input Night on April 16.

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Good Fuesday (Good Friday on a Tuesday) Service- There is no celebration of the risen King without the crucifixion. Join us for a Good Friday service where we will walk through the seven sayings of Christ on the cross. We can't properly celebrate the resurrected Jesus without first meditating on His suffering that Friday.

Tuesday, March 27 // 6:30pm at all campuses.

Family Easter Celebration - Join us for Family Easter Celebration at all campuses with inflatables, games and more for the kids! There will be an Easter service immediately following at 5:30pm.

Saturday, March 31 // 3:00-5:00pm

Marriage Encounter Retreat - This marriage encounter is designed for couples to get away and be in a relaxed and fun environment to renew, repair or rejuvenate your connection with your spouse. Invest your time and refocus on Jesus as the center of your most important covenant.

April 26-29, The Plantation at Crystal River, FL

To find out more info and to sign up go to coe22.com/deepen. Sign up by April 2.

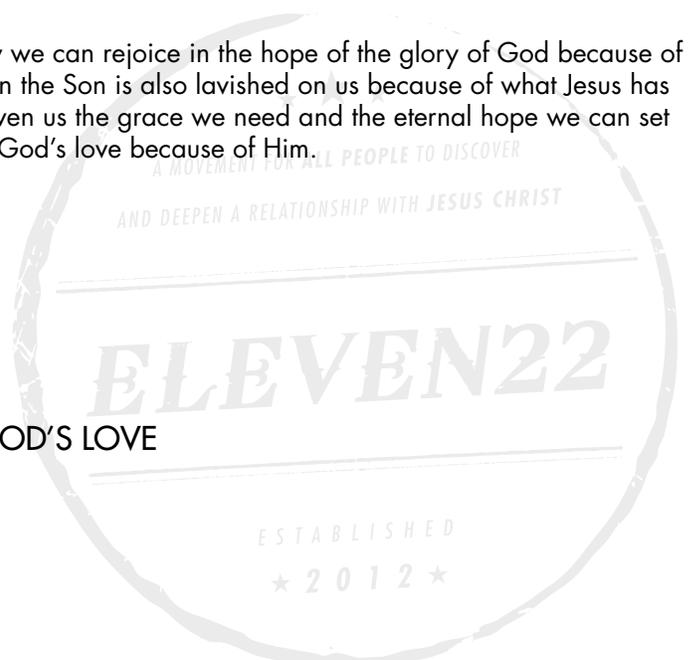
TEXTS: ROMANS 5:1-11, JAMES 1:2-4

THE RECAP: (10 MINUTES)

In week 11 of the Romans series Pastor Britt talked about how we can rejoice in the hope of the glory of God because of God's grace. Jesus is the glory of God and the glory lavished on the Son is also lavished on us because of what Jesus has done for us. Even in the midst of pain and suffering God has given us the grace we need and the eternal hope we can set our minds on. Jesus is the Giver and the Gift. We are secure in God's love because of Him.

THE POINT: GRACE IS THE FREE:

GIFT OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH
APART FROM WORKS THAT
CHANGES WHO WE ARE BY
ETERNALLY SECURING US IN GOD'S LOVE



TEACHING & DIALOGUE

Have someone read Romans 5:1-11 out loud.

The first few chapters of Romans show us our deep need for a Savior. Our sin separates us from a perfect and holy God. Since no one can measure up to God's standard, right standing with God comes only through faith in the atoning work of Jesus on the cross. Those who are saved by faith in Christ have an unshakable hope because they know that on the day of judgement, they will be saved from God's wrath by virtue of Jesus' substitutionary death on their behalf. This is the ultimate message of Romans: you are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone for the glory of God alone. Beginning here in chapter 5, we will see the theme: those who are in Christ, have been made righteous in God's sight, and therefore have a certain hope of future glory and eternal life.

1. What does this passage teach you about God's character?
(While still being perfectly righteous and just, it is God's LOVE {v 8} that led to His plan of salvation through the death of Jesus on the cross. God did not choose to reconcile a people to Himself because they have anything to offer Him, because He is lacking in anything, or because He was lonely; He is completely self-sufficient. He has chosen to save rebellious sinners out of love and for His glory.)
2. According to verse 1, how can you have peace with God?
(Peace with God comes through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. For the believer that trusts in Jesus for the forgiveness of his/her sins, there is no longer the fear of judgement and wrath of God. This is not merely a subjective feeling, but an objective reality. The grace in which we stand is definite and secure. When Jesus declared that, "it is finished," on the cross right before He died {John 19:30}, He had accomplished His mission. Then He arose from the grave three days later, He conquered death and affirmed His divinity and our justification along with it.)
3. How does an individual "obtain access" to God's grace? Use verses 1 and 2 to help you answer.
(One can receive grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. In the sermon this week, Pastor Britt talked about how grace is a gift: unmerited, undeserved and completely free. There is nothing you can do to make God love you more, and there is nothing you can do to make God love you less. His grace has nothing to do with you, other than that you can be the recipient of it, but has everything to do with His character and His glory. Jesus is the gift and God is the giver.)
4. Verse 3 says that the Christ-follower rejoices in sufferings. What does this look like practically?
(The people of God rejoice not only in future promised glory, but in present trials and sufferings as well. This is not because the trials are pleasant, but because God uses them through the Holy Spirit in us to make us more like Christ. Have you seen this in your life? Situationally, this can take many forms and look different for everyone..)

Have someone read James 1:2-4 out loud.

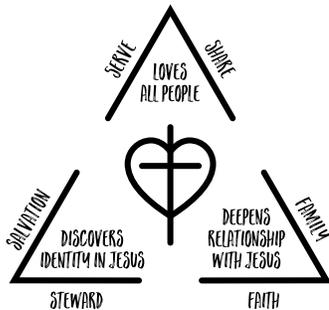
James, Jesus' half-brother, is the writer of this letter. After Jesus' death and resurrection, James became one of the leaders of the Jewish Christians. God uses James' message here to brothers and sisters to rebuke their worldliness. The main theme is to truly live out your faith: being a doer and not just a hearer of the Word. James' plain, direct language and practicality make it particularly helpful to Christ-followers.

5. What do these verses say about trials/suffering?
(One of the key words from these verses is "when." It doesn't say IF you meet trials, it says WHEN. Trials, hard circumstances, and suffering are, sadly, a part of normal Christian life, and they WILL come. Just as the verses in Romans explain, Christ-followers are to consider trials as joy because of what they produce in us. The "joy" here is not an actual feeling of enjoyment in the face of hard things or a fake front. What we are called to do, is to think about the trials in a particular way, through the lens of having eternity in mind. When you lay down your life to Christ, the Holy Spirit begins in you a process or a journey of making you more like Jesus; this is called sanctification. It will not be easy or comfortable, but God does promise that it is for our ultimate good and His glory.)

6. How has God used a past or present trial or suffering to make you more like Jesus or to draw you to himself?
(Opening up about hardships often feels raw and vulnerable, but we are called to bear one another's burdens, pray for and encourage each other. Often times the work that God is doing in our own lives and stories is not just to teach us individually, but can be for the teaching and encouragement of your brothers and sisters in Christ as well. Allow God to use you and your story if you feel called to share.)
7. How is it dangerous to place your hope in good circumstances?
(When we find our hope or identity in anything other than Jesus, we set ourselves up for failure. All things this side of heaven are temporary, fleeting. Only God is eternal. Place your hope, trust and find your identity in the One who made you, called you to Himself and willingly died for you on a cross. Everything else will let you down.)

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY ACTION STEP

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY
A disciple is someone who...



If anyone in the Group needs prayer concerning hope in their suffering surround them and pray for them.

If you are walking through a trial and need a fellow brother or sister in Christ to walk with you please go to coe22.com/care to sign up for a care team member to reach out. We want to intercede to the Lord on your behalf.

