

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

**Facilitator:** Encourage your members to **BRING THEIR BIBLES** and use them during Connect Group.

## **CONNECT Group study questions for January 14, 2018**

**Title: Salvation Benefits—Romans 5:1-5**

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

*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. 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.*

**Review:** Read the notes from Pastor Peppy's lesson, *Salvation Benefits*, and share what God revealed to you from his message.

**Question:** Previous chapters leading up to Romans 5 teach us about justification by faith. That means God has removed our capital (death penalty) crime (sin) against himself and offers us a legally clean slate made available to us if we believe—trust, rely on, act like—we have it. Chapter 5 begins with “Therefore, since (because) we have been justified by faith,…” and then lists benefits that are the result of our justification. The first is peace, or reconciliation, with God.

What does it mean to have peace with God?

Was there a time when you didn't have peace with God? What was that like?

How did this reconciliation come about? Did we reconcile ourselves to God? Did God reconcile himself to us? Or did God reconcile us to himself? How did he do that?

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**Question:** God has given us reconciliation with himself, so how does he expect us to use it?

**Read:** Hebrews 4:14-16

**Question:** Since we are justified by faith and God has given us access to himself, how does God want us to use this privilege and for what purpose?

**Read:** Ephesians 2:11-22

Share with the group what it means to you to have access to God.

**Question:** Pastor Peppy explained what “hope” means in this passage: A confident expectation. The passage says we are to rejoice in this hope of the glory of God.

Share with the group ways you rejoice or express your joy in what lies ahead whatever it may be.

Can you rejoice in the hope of the glory of God as you watch the evening news?

**Read:** 1 Peter 1:6-7; James 1:2-4; Acts 5:40-42; John 16:33

**Question:** What reason do we have to rejoice when suffering comes our way?

Can we say that suffering is a gift from God?

How can we use our suffering to bring glory to God?

**Question:** When Romans 5:5 tells us that *“God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us,”* I am reminded of when I was a child and my parents took me to see Niagara Falls. As long as we watched, water kept pouring over the falls and into a pool below, and it still is. But it didn’t stop there it kept flowing into a river below.

For what practical purpose is God pouring his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit?

What do we do with the love he pours into our hearts; how do we use that love?

Do we have to be careful not to be lavish with that love for fear it might run out?