

Not Without Hope

Bible Basis: Romans 5:1-11

Bible Truth: There is faith in Christ with the presence of the Holy Spirit; God has given reconciliation and hope.

Memory Verse: “And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” Romans 5:5.

Lesson Aim: That we understand Romans 5:1–11 teaches us that justification brings peace, grace, hope, love, and joy — all anchored in the unchanging love of God through Jesus Christ.

Background Scriptures: Psalm 42

How Psalm 42 Correlates With Romans 5:1–11

1. Both reveal the believer’s journey from despair to hope.

- **Psalm 42** shows the psalmist’s soul cast down, thirsting for God, yet choosing to *hope in Him again. (As the deer pants for the water...)*
- **Romans 5:1–11** shows how faith in Christ gives us peace, grace, and hope that *does not disappoint.*

Together: Both passages teach that hope is not based on emotion but on relationship — God’s presence and His promise sustain us through every valley.

2. Both show that trials deepen faith, not destroy it.

- In **Psalm 42**, the psalmist wrestles with sorrow and questions but keeps returning to worship.
- In **Romans 5**, Paul says tribulation produces perseverance, character, and hope.

Together: Suffering becomes sacred ground where faith matures and God’s love is proven real.

3. Both center on God’s steadfast love.

- **Psalm 42:8** — “The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime.”
- **Romans 5:8** — “God demonstrates His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Together: God's love is constant — whether we're crying out in the night or standing in grace by faith.

4. Both end with confidence in God's salvation.

- The psalmist declares, *"I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance."*
- Paul declares, *"We rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Together: Praise is the natural response to grace. When we remember what God has done, our sorrow turns to worship.

Before we get into our lesson let's fill in the missing CHAPTER. CHAPTER 4

— Romans 4:

Theme: Abraham as the Model of Justification by Faith

Romans 4 is Paul's masterclass on what true righteousness looks like — and he uses Abraham to prove that salvation has always been by **faith**, not works, not law, and not religious rituals.

1. Abraham Was Justified by Faith, Not Works (vv. 1–5)

Paul asks: *What did Abraham discover about being right with God?* Abraham believed God, and **his faith was counted as righteousness**. If righteousness came by works, it would be earned like wages. But Abraham didn't earn righteousness — he received it. Genesis 15:6

Key truth: God justifies the ungodly through faith alone.

2. David Confirms the Same Truth (vv. 6–8)

Paul quotes David to show that righteousness is a **gift**, not a reward. David says the blessed person is the one whose sins are forgiven and covered — not the one who performs perfectly.

Key truth: Forgiveness is an act of grace, not human achievement.

3. Abraham Was Declared Righteous Before Circumcision (vv. 9–12)

Paul emphasizes timing: Abraham was justified **before** he was circumcised. This proves righteousness is not tied to rituals or religious identity. Abraham was circumcised in Genesis 17 when he was 99 years old.

Key truth: Faith, not ceremony, makes us children of Abraham.

4. The Promise Came Through Faith, Not the Law (vv. 13–17)

The law brings wrath because no one can keep it perfectly. The promise comes through faith so it can rest on grace.

Key truth: God designed salvation so anyone — Jew or Gentile — can receive it by faith.

5. Abraham’s Faith Shows Us What Faith Looks Like (vv. 18–22)

Abraham believed God **against hope**. He trusted God’s promise even when circumstances made it impossible. His faith rested in God’s power, not human logic.

Key truth: Real faith believes God’s word over visible circumstances.

6. Abraham’s Story Is Our Story (vv. 23–25)

Paul says Abraham’s faith was recorded for **us**. We are declared righteous the same way — by believing in the God who raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus was delivered for our sins and raised for our justification.

Key truth: The resurrection is the guarantee that our justification is complete.

One-Sentence Summary

Romans 4 teaches that righteousness has always come through faith, and Abraham’s example shows that God saves, blesses, and justifies anyone who believes His promise — ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

THE LESSON:

Sunday School Lesson — Romans 5:1–11

NOT WITHOUT HOPE

Theme: The Blessings of Justification and the Depth of God’s Love

1. Introduction: What Justification Gives Us

Romans 5:1–11 shows what happens *after* we are justified by faith. Paul moves from the courtroom (Romans 3–4) into the living room of God’s grace. He explains the blessings, the security, and the hope believers now enjoy because of Christ.

Lesson Outline

2. We Have Peace With God (v. 1)

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Peace with God means the war is over.
- No more hostility, guilt, or condemnation.
- This peace is not a feeling — it is a new relationship.

Teaching Point: Justification changes our standing before God permanently.

Discussion Question: What does peace with God mean to you personally?

3. We Stand in Grace (v. 2)

²through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Paul says we now “stand” in grace — not fall in and out of it.

- Grace is our new environment.
- We live in God’s favor.
- We have access to Him at all times.

Teaching Point: Grace is not a moment; it is a position.

Activity: Have students list areas of life where they need to remember they “stand in grace.”

4. We Rejoice in Hope (vv. 3–5)

³And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces ^[b]perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, ^[c]character; and character, hope. ⁵Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Believers rejoice in two things:

1. **The hope of God’s glory** — our future with Him.
2. **Tribulations** — because trials produce spiritual growth.

Paul outlines the chain reaction: Tribulation → Patience → Character → Hope And hope never disappoints because God’s love is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

Teaching Point: Trials don’t destroy believers; they develop them.

Discussion Question: How has God used a difficult season to strengthen your character?

5. Christ Died for Us at Our Worst (vv. 6–8)

⁶For when we were still without strength, ^[d]in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Paul highlights the depth of God’s love:

- Christ died for us when we were **weak, ungodly**, and **sinners**.
- Human love rarely sacrifices for the righteous.
- God’s love sacrifices for the guilty.

Teaching Point: God didn’t wait for us to improve — He acted while we were broken.

6. We Are Saved From Wrath (vv. 9–10)

⁹Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Because we are justified by Christ's blood:

- We will not face God's final judgment.
- We are reconciled — moved from enemies to friends.
- If God saved us when we were enemies, He will surely keep us now that we are His children.

Teaching Point: Salvation is secure because it is based on Christ's work, not ours.

Discussion Question: Why is it important to understand that reconciliation is permanent?

7. We Rejoice in God (v. 11)

11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

The passage ends with joy — not in blessings, but in **God Himself**. We rejoice because:

- We are reconciled.
- We belong to Him.
- Our relationship is restored.

Teaching Point: The greatest gift of salvation is God Himself.

8. Summary for Students

Romans 5:1–11 teaches that justification brings:

- Peace with God
- Access to grace
- Joy in hope
- Growth through trials
- Assurance of God's love
- Security from wrath
- A restored relationship with God

Everything we have in Christ is rooted in God's love and guaranteed by Christ's sacrifice.