

DISCUSSION GUIDE: Romans 5:3-5

July 18, 2017

Last week, we stared into the truth that God will glorify His people, and we rejoice in the hope of one day being with Him forever. Paul quickly shifts to show us how God will use suffering and the power of the Holy Spirit to sanctify us while we await our glorification.

1. In verse 3, Paul says that suffering produces endurance in the Christian life.

—Do you struggle with the idea that hard times are actually a part of God's plan? Discuss with your group.

—There are many passages that show us how suffering is necessary for the Christian. Read through these passages and discuss how they help us grow. (2 Corinthians 1:6-10, Hebrews 11:23-26, 1 Peter 4:12-16)

—Discuss different times in your life where God has used suffering to strengthen your faith and make you more like Him.

2. Paul lists a progression characteristics that suffering helps produce in the Christian (endurance, character, hope).

—Discuss what each of these words mean and how they play out in our everyday lives.

3. Paul tells us a powerful truth as he finishes his thoughts in verse 5. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

—Do you often find yourself forgetting the truth that the Spirit of God lives within you? How does this encourage you as you walk through suffering?

—Also, God's love is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. What does this tell you about how we are called to love? Do we love by our own strength or power?

—Discuss how does the Gospel encourage us to love others?