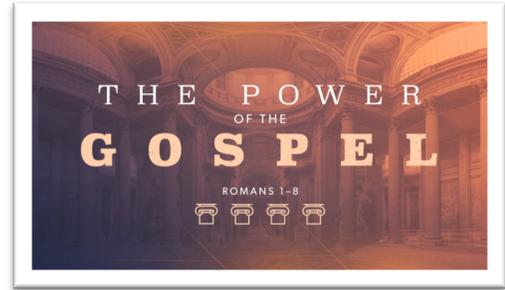


## THE GOSPEL IS PEACE

ROMANS 5:1-11 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD  
NOVEMBER 22, 2020



*The peace that comes with being justified by God means that I have access to his grace (5:1-2), I have his perspective on suffering (5:3-5), I know that I have his love (5:6-9), and I am no longer his enemy (5:10-11).*

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How can confidence about God’s grace help Christians take a different approach to everyday living? (5:1-2)
- Do you believe God’s grace is available while you are suffering? Todd described two paths based on acceptance or rejection of God’s perspective while suffering. What were the steps on the “Path of Unrest” and where do they lead?
- How does extended suffering tend to affect you spiritually? If you notice a decline in our spiritual health while suffering, how could you seek out hopeful encouragement?
- What would it look like for you to share God’s peace with someone you know who is suffering?

- What do you think Paul meant when he says, “while were still weak”? (Romans 5:6) How does admitting weakness and accepting our inability to save ourselves help us find more peace with God?
- In competitive environments we learn to exploit weaknesses in others. Yet, Jesus responded to our failings with sacrificial love. How do you typically respond to weakness and sinfulness in others? What would a more loving response look like?
- Are you looking for some other proof of God’s love for you besides Christ’s death? (See Romans 5:8) What would give you more assurance of his love without also becoming an idol?
- Was there ever a time in your life where you acted like one of God’s enemies? Were you a passive enemy or an active one? How did God establish peace with you again?
- How do you offer the peace of reconciliation in broken relationship where the other party has sinned against you?
- How can we approach peace and reconciliation where we have a history of participation in ethnic, cultural, age, or gender-based divides? *(Think about steps that could move people beyond simply redescribing the things that divide them!)*