

Questions for Personal Study or Group Discussion

Open

- Is there (or has there been) a committed optimist in your family? Who? What makes (or made) them that way?
- What is your primary goal in life?

Read

- Romans 5:1-5

Observe

- What is peace? What does it mean to have peace with God?
- In your own words, paraphrase what it means to be justified by faith. What benefits are ours as a result of faith in Christ?
- How and why can believers rejoice in suffering?
- How are suffering, hope, and God's love related to each other?

Apply

- How has God used suffering to produce perseverance, character, hope, and a deeper knowledge of God's love in you and others around you?
- How might focusing on the hope of the glory of God give you strength, comfort, or joy today? This week?

Prayer

- *Glorify* God, who has declared us justified because of the faith that he has provided.
- *Rejoice with* God as He brings forth endurance, character, and hope through the sufferings in your life.