

Prov. 8:1–4, 22–31

Ps. 8

Rom. 5:1–5

John 16:12–15

God with Us

**Goal for
the Session**

From Paul’s words of hope, children will affirm that hope in God’s grace is for them.

■ P R E P A R I N G F O R T H E S E S S I O N

Focus on Romans 5:1–5

WHAT is important to know?

— *From “Exegetical Perspective,” Margaret P. Aymer*

Through Jesus Christ, the Roman church has peace with God and access into the grace of God. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, it also has had the love of God poured into the hearts of its members. All of this underscores that the affliction or oppression of the Roman church is not the result of divine displeasure and should not, therefore, cause the Roman church shame. Rather, all evidence to the contrary, the church is awash in the gifts of God and, despite its affliction or oppression, is filled with divine favor and love.

WHERE is God in these words?

— *From “Theological Perspective,” Linda E. Thomas*

Paul tells the believers in Rome that because they believe that Jesus is the Son of God, God brings them to a place of highest privilege and they stand there presently. So whatever their place or station in life, in whatever circumstance they find themselves, they can rest assured that God gives them special honor and freedom now. Because of this, they can boldly and merrily anticipate developing into the complete person God always intends for them and for us to be. Following Paul’s message to the Romans means that becoming all God intends for us to be begins *now*. This too is part of the real peace we have with God.

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

— *From “Pastoral Perspective,” Michael Jenkins*

Paul does not say that whenever the world breaks us, we will inevitably heal back stronger. It is simply not true. Some who suffer are broken for good, and they do not get well again. Paul is no magician, nor does he advocate a simpleminded optimism. What Paul does promise is that our suffering need never be wasted. Because we belong to God in Christ, because God has poured his love into our hearts, that which we suffer can produce patient endurance. This endurance can form the character of the God who gives God’s self away for us all, and this character produces hope, hope that will never disappoint because God is more faithful than we can ever imagine.

NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do?

— *From “Homiletical Perspective,” Richard L. Sheffield*

Hope is not just the result of “being hopeful,” or “wishful thinking,” or how much we hurt. Hope happens because—as Paul wrote, again about suffering—“we know that all things work together for good for those who love God” (Rom. 8:28), even bad things like suffering and pain. Hope is not something we “work out” but something we take in. “And hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (5:5). Our faith (endurance and character) and God’s love, freely given, are the substance of hope.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Romans 5:1–5

Focus on Your Teaching

Rather than try to explain the Trinity to children, this session focuses on something for which they are naturally disposed: spiritual practices that connect them with Jesus and God. Scientific evidence shows that spirituality is part of our being from birth. The spiritual nature is closely connected to relationships with each other and with God. Now is the time to build these connections in the brain. And the stronger the bond with God or a transcendent being, the less likely the child is to be involved in risky behavior in adolescence and beyond.

Holy God, I want to open myself to you and help the children I teach to do the same. In Jesus' name. Amen.

YOU WILL NEED

- white cloth
- Christ candle
- Bible, bookmark
- offering basket
- Singing the Feast*, bit.ly/SingingTheFeast
- Color Pack 1, 34
- Resource Sheet 1
- copies of Resource Sheet 2

For Responding

- option 2: modeling clay or play dough; paper towels or plastic place mats; *Singing the Feast*, bit.ly/SingingTheFeast
- option 3: Resource Sheet 1, newsprint, markers, sticky notes, pencils or pens
- option 4: newsprint, marker, smooth stones from a craft store, black fine-tipped permanent markers, scrap paper, clear sealing spray

LEADING THE SESSION

GATHERING

Before the children arrive, place a bookmark at Romans in the worship table Bible.

Invite the first children to arrive to arrange the worship table with the white cloth, Christ candle, Bible, Color Pack 1, and offering basket. When everything is ready, gather around the worship table. Invite a child to receive the offering. Ask:

✠ What does this white candle represent?

Light the Christ candle. Say that we light the Christ candle as a reminder that Jesus is always with us.

Comment that the color of the cloth is different from last session. Ask:

✠ What color was the cloth last session? What special day was it?

Explain that today is Trinity Sunday, which is always the Sunday after Pentecost, and that *trinity* means “three.” Ask:

✠ What other words start with “tri” that stands for three of something? (*triple, tricolor, triplet, tricycle, triangle*)

Explain that Trinity in the church stands for three ways that God is present in our lives: creator, Jesus, and Holy Spirit. Or in traditional language: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

EXPLORING

Invite a child to retrieve the Bible from the worship table, open it to the bookmark, and read the name of the book (*Romans*). Explain that after the four Gospels and the book of Acts, the New Testament has many letters written to people of the first churches. Many were written by Paul. Ask the children if they can recall recent stories about Paul.

If your group is made up of mostly older children, distribute Bibles and look at the books of the New Testament. Count the number of letters. Younger children can be included if paired with an older child.

Tell the story on Resource Sheet 1 (Paul and the Roman Church). Ask:

✠ Why did Paul write a letter to the believers in Rome?

Read the paraphrase of Romans 5:1–5 on Resource Sheet 1. Ask the children to raise a hand each time they hear *God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit*. Ask:

✠ What do you think Paul wanted the Romans to know?

Show Color Pack 1. Tell the children that this symbol is for the Trinity, where each point stands for one way God is made known to us and the three are woven together, showing how they interact.

Distribute copies of Resource Sheet 2 (Trinity Labyrinth). Explain this Trinity symbol will be used like a finger labyrinth. Ask a child to read the words at the points of the figure. Play “Harp Music” ([Singing the Feast](#)). Tell them to begin at any point by placing one finger on the “path.” As they move their finger slowly to the next point, they should think about the way that God is present to them through that person of the Trinity. For example, if they begin at the point that says *Son*, they think about how God is present to them through Jesus until they reach the next point. Then they continue with the next way that God is present to them. Explain that they can go around the path more than once. When the music stops, they stop.

Conclude Exploring by noting that moving around a labyrinth is called a *spiritual practice*. Spiritual practices help connect us more closely with God.

RESPONDING

Offer at least two options so children have a choice. One might be more challenging to interest older children.

1. Question Game Paul wrote to the Romans to answer their questions about God. This game will encourage children to speak aloud their questions about God. Teach the children the chant in the sidebar. Rehearse it three or four times. Then have everyone else stand in a circle, make fists with both hands, and hold them in front of their bodies. “It” walks around the circle, saying the chant and bumping one fist for each word in the chant. Ask for a volunteer to be “It” or demonstrate this yourself. The person in the circle who is fist-bumped on the last word of the chant says a number between one and ten. “It” counts off individuals in the circle until the number is reached. That person asks one question about God, and then becomes “It.” After several rounds when everyone who wishes has asked a question, ask:

✠ Where can you go to find answers to your questions about God?

2. Meditation with Clay As children reflect on the ideas in Paul’s letter to the Romans, they place God in their lives. Give each child a lump of modeling clay or play dough and a paper towel or plastic place mat. Explain that they are to work with the clay as they think about some questions about God that you will ask them. They don’t answer out loud, just think. Set “Celebration Music” ([Singing the Feast](#)) to repeat play softly.

EASY
PREP

Chant

Who is God?
What do you say?
What’s your question
about God today?

Suggest that they work with the clay for a moment or two to soften it. Then quietly ask the following questions, allowing time for children to think and mold the clay after each one.

- ✿ What part of God's creation seems most amazing to you?
- ✿ Who helps you to have hope in God?
- ✿ When do you feel God is close to you?
- ✿ What does it feel like to have hope in God?
- ✿ What does it feel like to ask God a question?

After the last question, collect the clay and suggest that they continue to think about God and God's hope.

- 3. Encouraging Messages** Children will write messages to encourage others to recognize hope in God, just as Paul did. Read aloud the last sentence in the paraphrase of Paul's letter on Resource Sheet 1. Ask the following questions. Write the children's answers on newsprint in short sentences or phrases:

- ✿ What could you say about God's love to a person who is sad? Who is worried? To encourage someone to keep trying?

Give four or five sticky notes and pencil to each child. Invite the children to read the answers on the newsprint and choose a few they like best. Tell them to write their favorites on the sticky notes, one to a note. When they finish, talk about where they might leave their notes at home for family members to find.

- 4. Reminder Rocks** Children will decorate rocks as reminders that they have hope because of God's love and care. Together, make a list of words or phrases and images that convey the hope they can have because they know about God's love and care. Print the words on newsprint for younger children to copy. Give each child a rock and a black fine-tipped permanent marker to decorate it. Provide scrap paper so they can test their designs and adjust them to the size of the rock. When learners are finished with their rocks, place them on several layers of newspaper and spray with a clear sealing spray. As they dry, talk about where the children will place their rocks at home.

CLOSING

Gather at the worship table. Sing "I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing" (Color Pack 34, [Singing the Feast](#)). Substitute "hope" for "sing."

Pray:

Loving God, we are thankful that your love is shown through Jesus, and we learned from Paul that we can hope because your love fills our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

To each child, say, "Thank you for coming. See you next week."

I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing

I'm gonna sing when the
Spirit says sing,
I'm gonna sing when the
Spirit says sing,
I'm gonna sing when the
Spirit says sing,
and obey the Spirit of the
Lord.

Paul and the Roman Church

based on Romans 5:1-5

Paul and his friends traveled to many places to tell people about Jesus Christ. But travel was difficult in those days and it took days, even months, to get from city to city, certainly from country to country. Paul wanted very much to visit the churches of Rome in Italy. But try as he might, he couldn't seem to get to this city, where he knew some of the people. Paul did the next best thing for his time; he wrote them a long letter.

Paul told the believers in Jesus in Rome that he really wanted to come and tell them about Jesus in person. He had heard good things about their strong faith and he wanted to help them be even stronger. But, alas, he had to settle for writing a letter instead.

One of the things he wanted to tell them is from the fifth chapter. I said it was a long letter. There are 16 chapters. Paul wrote:

Because of Jesus the Christ, we can be at peace with God. When we stand with Jesus, we can be proud of the hope of God's glory together.

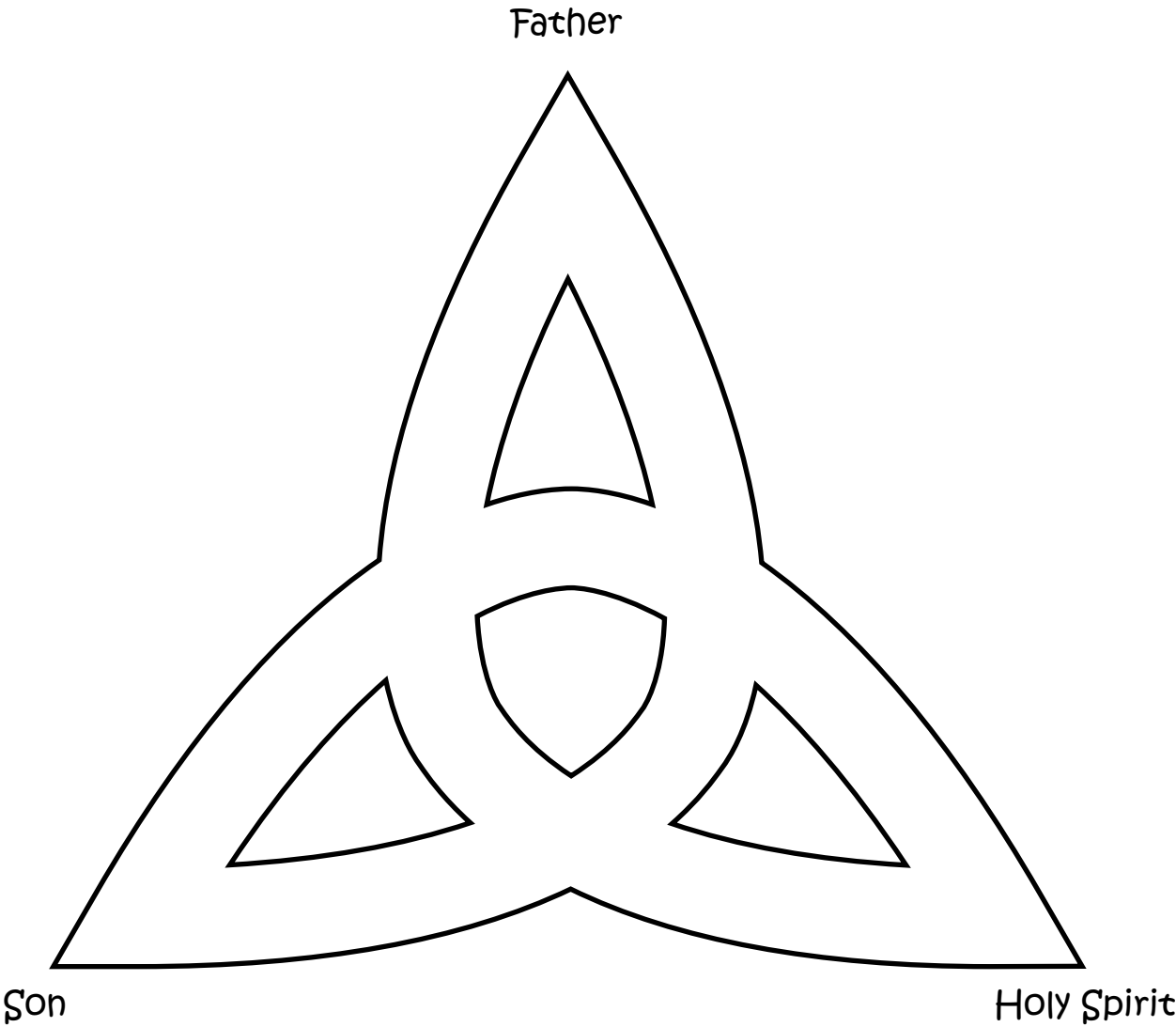
But that isn't all! We don't have to be upset because we have problems. We know that with God and Jesus those problems can make us better to be strong during them. Then we build good character. And that good character gives us hope.

But this isn't just any hope. It is a hope that comes to us because God's love fills our hearts through the Holy Spirit, the gift from God and Jesus.

And Paul's words to the believers in Rome also are words to the church right here today.



Trinity Labyrinth



Prov. 8:1–4, 22–31

Ps. 8

Rom. 5:1–5

John 16:12–15

Hope in Hard Times

Goal for the Session

Based on Paul’s witness in Romans 5, adults will express their reliance on God for hope in times of suffering.

■ P R E P A R I N G F O R T H E S E S S I O N

Focus on Romans 5:1–5

WHAT is important to know?

— From “Exegetical Perspective,” Margaret P. Aymer

Through Jesus Christ, the Roman church has peace with God and access into the grace of God. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, it also has had the love of God poured into the hearts of its members. All of this underscores that the affliction or oppression of the Roman church is not the result of divine displeasure and should not, therefore, cause the Roman church shame. Rather, all evidence to the contrary, the church is awash in the gifts of God and, despite its affliction or oppression, is filled with divine favor and love.

WHERE is God in these words?

— From “Theological Perspective,” Linda E. Thomas

Paul tells the believers in Rome that because they believe that Jesus is the Son of God, God brings them to a place of highest privilege and they stand there presently. So whatever their place or station in life, in whatever circumstance they find themselves, they can rest assured that God gives them special honor and freedom now. Because of this, they can boldly and merrily anticipate developing into the complete person God always intends for them and for us to be. Following Paul’s message to the Romans means that becoming all God intends for us to be begins *now*. This too is part of the real peace we have with God.

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

— From “Pastoral Perspective,” Michael Jenkins

Paul does not say that whenever the world breaks us, we will inevitably heal back stronger. It is simply not true. Some who suffer are broken for good, and they do not get well again. Paul is no magician, nor does he advocate a simpleminded optimism. What Paul does promise is that our suffering need never be wasted. Because we belong to God in Christ, because God has poured his love into our hearts, that which we suffer can produce patient endurance. This endurance can form the character of the God who gives God’s self away for us all, and this character produces hope, hope that will never disappoint because God is more faithful than we can ever imagine.

NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do?

— From “Homiletical Perspective,” Richard L. Sheffield

Hope is not just the result of “being hopeful,” or “wishful thinking,” or how much we hurt. Hope happens because—as Paul wrote, again about suffering—“we know that all things work together for good for those who love God” (Rom. 8:28), even bad things like suffering and pain. Hope is not something we “work out” but something we take in. “And hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (5:5). Our faith (endurance and character) and God’s love, freely given, are the substance of hope.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Romans 5:1–5

Focus on Your Teaching

For many adults, times of suffering can raise doubts about God’s love or presence. We may wonder why a good God allows agonizing things to happen to us or those we love. We may rationalize that the cause of our suffering resides in something we have done. The first option opens the door for bitterness toward a vindictive God. The second option leaves us immersed in guilt or shame. Today’s passage offers a third option for grappling with hard times. Be sensitive to adults who may be enduring significant suffering or brokenness. Do not minimize their experience by confusing hope with simplistic optimism.

Gracious God, help me rely on you in my preparations and leading of this session. Amen.

YOU WILL NEED

- Bibles
- board or newsprint
- markers
- copies of Resource Sheet 1
- copies of Resource Sheet 1 for the next session

For Responding

- option 1: copies of Resource Sheet 2
- option 3: Resource Sheet 1

LEADING THE SESSION

GATHERING

Welcome the participants. Introduce any visitors or newcomers.

Have people stand at one end of the room. Explain that you will be engaging in a continuum exercise in which you will make several broad statements. If adults totally agree with a statement, stand on a designated side of the room. To register total disagreement, stand on the other side of the room. To indicate some agreement or disagreement, or absolute neutrality, stand closer to one side or another or right in the middle. After you read each statement and allow time for adults to position themselves, ask for brief comments about why folks stand where they do. The statements are:

- ✿ Peanut butter is my favorite food.
- ✿ I am basically a hopeful person.
- ✿ Bad things happen to good people.
- ✿ God causes suffering.

Affirm that today’s session will explore interactions among suffering, reliance on God, and the possibility of hope.

Offer this or a similar prayer:

God, whose ways are both mysterious and wise, guide us in our time together. Amen.

EXPLORING

Ask participants what they know of or associate with the book of Romans. Briefly relate the information in the sidebar.

Paul's letter to the church at Rome is stylistically his most theologically developed epistle. The church(es) he addresses there had not been founded or as yet visited by Paul (see Acts 28:14ff for his final time there before martyrdom).

Have adults silently read Romans 5:1–5. Invite them to offer comments about the passage as a whole or questions it raises. Briefly discuss these.

Form groups of three or four. Explain that you will read the passage aloud. Ask adults to listen to the spoken word with these particular questions in mind:

- ✧ What does this passage reveal about God?
- ✧ What does this passage reveal about human existence?
- ✧ What significance might these revelations have had for Paul's original audience?

After the reading, have the groups discuss their responses to the three questions. During the discussion, draw a vertical line down the middle of a board or newsprint. Title one column *Romans 5:1–5 and God* and the other column *Romans 5:1–5 and Human Existence*.

Gather the groups together. Draw attention to the board or newsprint. Ask each group, one at a time, to call out what they saw the passage revealing about God and about human existence. Write these down.

Invite groups to focus on verses 3–5, noting the “cycle” Paul describes there (suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope). Engage adults in a critical discussion of each element in that cycle. Some questions to lead into such a discussion could include:

- ✧ What in Paul's earlier affirmations in the passage might lead suffering to produce endurance as opposed? For example, what might one expect in terms of suffering leading to despair or bitterness or hopelessness?
- ✧ What in this passage might prevent endurance from simply being understood as “survival by any means necessary?” What do you hear Paul meaning by “endurance?”
- ✧ What meaning do you hear Paul giving to “character” in this passage, and how? Keep in mind, character can be a word with mixed messages. *He is a real character* may connote ridicule more than respect.

Distribute copies of Resource Sheet 1 (Focus on Romans 5:1–5) and read the “So What?” excerpt. Discuss its affirmations about suffering and hope in light of both Romans 5:1–5 and the participants' experiences.

Look again at the notes on the board or newsprint about what Romans 5:1–5 reveals about God and human existence. Recall that the third question also considered what significance these revelations might have had for Paul's original audience. Have the adults now consider the significance of these revelations in their own lives by silently reflecting on these two questions:

- ✧ What significance do these assertions about God and human existence have for your life and in your experiences of suffering?
- ✧ How might they foster your reliance on God?

EASY
PREP

Your church library may have resources that shed light on these individuals. Bring those resources to class if available. Online biographies are another source to access.

RESPONDING

Choose one or more of these activities depending on the length of your session:

- 1. Grounding Hope in Deepened Relationship with God** Reliance on God for hope in hard times depends on the vitality of our relationship with God. Distribute Resource Sheet 2 (Renewing Relationship with God). Review the instructions in the opening two paragraphs, then have the adults carry out the activity. Urge adults to carry through this week on the commitments they make.
- 2. Standing on the Shoulders** The church's history is filled with examples of individuals who relied on God in stressful circumstances. Reread Romans 5:3–5. Have adults call out names of persons whose lives bear witness to Paul's linkage of suffering, endurance, character, and hope. Examples might include Nelson Mandela, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, or Mother Teresa. Discuss how their lives embodied reliance on God in difficult conditions. Have each adult choose one such example. Encourage participants to deepen their knowledge of this person in the coming week, reflecting on how that life might inspire their own reliance on God.
- 3. What Hope Is—and Is Not** It is important to understand what is meant by "hope" if we seek to faithfully acknowledge how reliance on God generates it. Read the "Now What" excerpt on Resource Sheet 1 (Focus on Romans 5:1). Discuss its assertions of what hope is and what it is not. In each case, relate those assertions to what hope does and does not bring to times of suffering. Call on adults to carry these assertions of hope into situations they confront this week that test what hope means for us.

CLOSING

Invite adults to gather in a circle. Encourage adults willing to do so to briefly identify what this session has affirmed to them about hope and reliance on God, especially in times of suffering. Respect the silence of those who may choose not to speak.

Explain the following commissioning exercise that will close the session. Beginning with you, and then proceeding around the circle, turn to the person on your right, and say: "(Name), may you rely on God, whose peace and hope are yours." Have the group practice the commissioning words several times so folks will be comfortable doing so on their own.

Carry out the commissioning until all have received its word of blessing.

Distribute copies of Resource Sheet 1 for the next session, or e-mail it to the participants during the week. Encourage participants to read the focus scripture and resource sheet before the next session.

Focus on Romans 5:1–5

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Through Jesus Christ, the Roman church has peace with God and access into the grace of God. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, it also has had the love of God poured into the hearts of its members. All of this underscores that the affliction or oppression of the Roman church is not the result of divine displeasure and should not, therefore, cause the Roman church shame. Rather, all evidence to the contrary, the church is awash in the gifts of God and, despite its affliction or oppression, is filled with divine favor and love.

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Renewing Relationship with God

In her commentary on Romans 5:1–5, Linda E. Thomas lifts up some specific actions in which we might ground our lives in peace and hope by strengthening our relationship with God. In her words: *“Each person has to construct how she or he will build, maintain, and sustain her or his relationship with God.”*¹

Pick one or two actions from this listing she provides. Perhaps they are actions for which you have great passion. Perhaps they are actions for which you have great need. Perhaps they are both. Use the space between lines to describe what you will commit yourself to doing in the coming days.

“For some people, it may be intentionally taking some part of the day to pray (e.g., talk to God and meditate or listen to God).”

“For others, it may mean taking a walk in the city and noticing God’s active presence in the hustle and bustle of life.”

“For yet others, it may be giving service in a soup kitchen and seeing God’s face in those coming to get food.”

“For those who are partners or parents, it may mean building a culture of peace between family members where anger or frustration or apathy have permeated relationships.”

“For young adults in high school or college, it may mean noticing that peers from other cultural backgrounds are being treated differently and that their learning community could intentionally build practices of welcome, inclusion, and acceptance.”

“For those in church leadership, it may entail attempting to negotiate peace between warring parishioners over the direction of the congregation’s mission. Such courageous leaders within Christian communities may help to resolve genuine fears and distrust that has been festering between parishioners over generations.”

1. Linda E. Thomas, *“Theological Perspective,”* *Feasting on the Word, Year C, Volume 3* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010), 40.

Joining the Feast

Year C, Summer
Trinity Sunday—Proper 16



What you will find in *Joining the Feast!*

The Church Year Calendar

Describes the important church festivals and special days for the coming season. It provides theological reflections on their importance for the church's life and our own lives.

The Shape of the Season

Presents an overview of the focus scriptures for the weeks in the coming season. It discusses the biblical and theological significance of each of the passages.

Joining Worship and Learning: Making the Connections and Time with Children

A helpful feature in this section of *Joining the Feast* is the inclusion of the stories on the focus scriptures from the multi-age course. These stories can be used in the children's time during worship. Notice that some songs are used by several age levels but not in the same session. If you are interested in including a prayer, poetry, or artwork from an age level, speak with the leader in advance. May your congregational worship be enlivened by these suggestions to join worship and learning.

Joining Mission and Learning

Help the participants in *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* resources connect with existing service opportunities in your congregation. Review this list, and offer suggestions to the leaders. Give this chart to the chair of the mission or outreach committee so that the work of the committee can be strengthened through the church school.

Litanies and Prayers

A selection of poetic prayers and responsive readings that helps worship leaders connect the church's educational and worship experiences to find fullness and blessing in the praise and service of God.

Children's Bulletins

A fun activity page is provided weekly to give children a sense of belonging and help them feel welcome in the worship experience. These special children's bulletins connect their worship experience to the education themes.

Joining the Feast

We invite you to “Join the Feast”!

Our exciting *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* offers great opportunities for the local church. Pastors, educators, and participants can experience the wonder of God’s nourishing word to us. For church schools, for study groups, and for those preparing to teach or preach, the resources here will deepen and strengthen our faith. We have an amazing “feast” set before us! We desire and can find further understanding in our faith—of who God is and what God has done!

Joining the Feast helps pastors, educators, and worship leaders plan for education and worship. We want to assist in reflecting on how to incorporate scriptural and seasonal emphases across different parts of the church’s life.

Joining the Feast can be shared in education and worship committees. It enables important biblical themes to be integrated into the church’s study and worship experiences. A chart of suggestions for ways educational emphases can be used in worship is a feature of what follows here. Church school teachers can discuss these materials with one another to enhance education for all age levels in the church. Pastors who plan their lectionary preaching will find taking an overall look at this church season to be useful for their preparations. In all this we want to join teaching and preaching. We want the church’s educational and worship experiences to find fullness and blessing in the praise and service of God!

An important goal for pastors and educators in the church is to connect or join the church’s educational experience with the church’s worship experience. People of all ages who participate in church school study can find their Christian faith enhanced when the Scriptures read and proclaimed in worship reinforce and expand what they have been considering in their educational time. Education and worship can be mutually supportive in helping God’s word in Scripture come alive in the Sunday morning experience. Consideration of the same lectionary reading in preaching can deepen the insights gained in church school.

Pastors who want to build on what has been done in education welcome this *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* as a way to prepare congregational members for directions into which the sermon can lead. Those who participate in the education time will find the insights gained there enhanced by preaching that considers the same passage and brings God’s word to bear in fresh and nourishing ways. So as we “Join the Feast,” joining the church’s educational and worship dimensions can bring to life the richness of God’s word in Scripture.

Donald K. McKim



Paul and the Roman Church

based on Romans 5:1-5

Paul traveled from city to city to tell people about Jesus. But travel was difficult in those days and it took days, even months, to get from city to city, certainly from country to country. One city that Paul wanted very much to visit was Rome in Italy. He wanted to visit the churches there. But try as he might, he couldn't seem to get to this city where he knew some of the people. Paul did the next best thing for his time, he wrote them a long letter. In part of that letter, Paul wrote:

Because of Jesus the Christ, we can be at peace with God. When we stand with Jesus, we can be proud of the hope of God's glory together.

But that isn't all! We don't have to be upset because we have problems. We know that with God and Jesus those problems can make us stronger when other problems come. Then we build good character. And that good character gives us hope.

But this isn't just any hope. It is a hope that comes to us because God's love fills our hearts through the Holy Spirit, the gift from God and Jesus.

The brick wall is trying to give us a message from Paul. What word do you see?



Which one in each set is different from the others?

