

Bible Study for June 8-14

You are encouraged to take some time to reflect on the scripture and the questions provided either individually, or with members of your household.

Read: Romans 5:1-8

Notes: This week we begin a lengthy study into the book of Romans as our epistle readings all through the summer months focus on this unique book. It is helpful to understand that Paul had planned to travel to Spain, including stopping in Rome on his way through Italy. The beginnings of the congregation in Rome are somewhat hazy, although some have speculated it was begun by some who were present at the Pentecost event in Jerusalem. And so, in order to give this congregation some background into who he was and what his message was about, Paul sent this letter ahead to briefly explain the whole Christian doctrine, a step-by-step process of why and how God saves us in Jesus, using examples from the Old Testament and Paul's own life.

Unfortunately, while on a trip to Jerusalem to deliver funds for the believers there, Paul was arrested and only made it to Rome some time later as a prisoner under house arrest for 2 years before his execution. While he never did get to Spain, God had other plans for his work.

Questions to Ponder:

Who is the most optimistic person you know? What about them makes you feel that way?

When you hear the words from verse 3 "*we also rejoice in our sufferings*", do you accept that at face value, or do you question it? Why?

How would you explain to someone what it means to be "*justified through faith*"? (vs 1)

Are you able to understand how suffering, perseverance, character, and hope are connected?

Did you ever find benefits to suffering in your own life? Have you ever passed those insights on to someone else? Were you able to get another to understand that suffering is transformed by our relationship with God?

Can you think of examples where God has used our afflictions for good, or to bless others?