

Weekly Discussion Guide – 10-11-2026

Changed by Grace, Part 2: “Hope That Holds”

Sermon Text: Romans 5:1-5

Weekly Reading: Romans 4-5 | Next Week: chapters 6-8

1. When you hear the word “hope,” what is the first thing that comes to mind? What is something you are genuinely hoping for right now?
2. **Read Romans 5:1-5.** What words or phrases stand out to you? What do you notice about the connection Paul makes between faith, peace, suffering, perseverance, character, and hope?
3. Now, **read Romans 4:18–21.** Paul says that Abraham “in hope believed against hope.” What do you think Paul means by this? How was this different from simply being optimistic about circumstances?
4. How would you describe the difference between wishful thinking, optimism, and Christian hope? Why does it matter what—or Whom—we place our hope in?
5. Paul says that Christians have “hope of the glory of God” (Romans 5:2). What is the ultimate substance of Christian hope? How is hoping in God Himself and His promises different from simply hoping that our circumstances will turn out the way we want?
6. How have you seen God use a difficult season to form you or someone you know and deepen faith? How can we talk about this without pretending that suffering itself is good or that Christians shouldn't grieve?
7. What are some ways that what we believe about the future can affect our decisions, priorities, fears, and habits? What is one specific step you can take this week to bring more of your future—your plans, fears, uncertainty, suffering, or relationships—under the care of Jesus?

Closing Prayer: Invite each person to silently name before God one area of their future where they need to trust him more fully. Then pray together, thanking God that our hope is not based on circumstances but on his faithfulness, the resurrection of Jesus, and the presence of the Holy Spirit.