

Romans 5:1-5

God invites us in

Paul summarises the benefits of being justified through faith – a new relationship with God through Jesus Christ, bringing peace, grace, the hope of God's glory and the love of God poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. In Christ, even our sufferings can strengthen character and increase hope.

Read this week's passage:



Living Scripture

'God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.'
Romans 5:5

Have you ever been invited to join someone for a meal in their family home? Different family members might take your coat, offer you a drink, cook the meal, play a game with you, or entertain you with a story.

Your initial connection to one person blossoms into relationship with a family and your experience is wider, perhaps unexpected, and usually quite fun. Such is the way of faith: most of us start with an encounter with Jesus, who introduces us to the love of the Father and the power of the Holy Spirit. Reflect on God's nature as revealed through the Trinity, all God, but different aspects of God's personality. Do you connect more with Jesus, the Father or the Holy Spirit? How have you grown in your connection?

This passage reminds us that suffering can be a way to know more of Christ. God is changing us and pouring out his love into us, even in difficult times. Where can you see God at work in your life? Do you notice God's love or presence with you in your suffering?



First impressions

- How would you explain the Trinity to someone new to faith?
- In what ways does this image emphasise the invitational approach of God as Trinity?
- How might we model this invitation to our communities?



Pray

Lord, help us to look out for those who feel unloved and unwelcomed this week.
May we extend the love of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.



Grow

Write the word 'GLORY' on a sheet of kitchen towel. Carefully drizzle cress seeds to cover the letters. Gently add some water to the edge of the paper so it will seep across to the seeds. Watch every day to see God's glory grow – especially if you keep the paper watered!



Think about a small thing you can do to make someone else feel welcome either at church, work, school or in your wider community, and do it.

Find more free Roots resources
to reflect on this week's theme:



CREATE



Read Proverbs 8:22-31, which poetically describes the wonders of creation. Cut a piece of card (or use your hand if you prefer) and wrap three colours of wool in earth tones (as a reminder of the Trinity) around a card circle in bands. Tie off the wool and cut the ends to make a pom pom in the shape of the Earth.

WATCH

the Disney movie *Encanto* and talk about the different ways we can be blessed by God.