

# Joy Through it All

ROMANS 5:1-11

Sunday, November 2, 2025 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Faith ignites today's **JOY** and tomorrow's **HOPE**, (v. 1-2)

**justification brings peace** v. 1 Isaiah 53:5; John 16:33; Ephsians 2:14; Philippians 4:7

**grace brings joy & hope** v. 2 Psalm 16:11; Hebrews 3:6

turns **PAIN** into **PURPOSE**, (v. 3-5)

**rejoice in it, not for it** v. 3a, 5b James 1:2; 1 Peter 4:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:16; Habakkuk 3:17-19

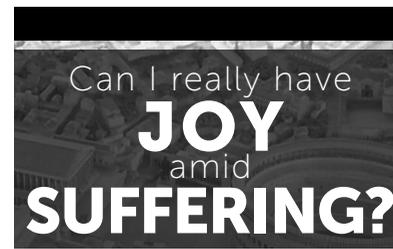
**let it refine—not define—you** v. 3b-5 James 1:3-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7; Proverbs 17:3

and roots it all in **JESUS**. (v. 6-11)

**initiated by grace** v. 6-8 Ephesians 2:4-5; 1 John 4:9-10; John 3:16

**finished by grace** v. 9-11 Philippians 1:6; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 1 Peter 5:10

**We are sent** to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.



We don't rejoice in suffering because we enjoy pain or want to pretend that hardship doesn't hurt. Suffering is real. It wounds, it disrupts, and sometimes it leaves us gasping for answers. But we rejoice because we know something deeper is happening—**God is at work**. Even in the moments Satan intends for evil, God is shaping us for good. Through difficulty, disappointment, and even attack, he is forming endurance in us, the kind of perseverance that can't be learned any other way.

That perseverance, over time, becomes proven character—a heart that's steady under pressure, faith that doesn't collapse when life does. This is one of God's loving purposes in allowing hardship. He's not indifferent to our pain; he's intentional with it. Every challenge becomes another opportunity to trust him, to depend on his strength instead of our own, and to see his faithfulness again. And the more we see his faithfulness, the more confident we become about the future.

It's likely that our patience will be tested in some way every single day—through delays, misunderstandings, temptations, or loss. But rejoicing begins when we thank God for those moments before we even see their purpose. It starts with a quiet decision to believe that he's using all of it to grow us. So when the trial comes, rather than resisting it or resenting it, we face it with gratitude and courage, relying on his strength, trusting that he's producing something lasting and good in us.

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Colossians 1:24</b>  | <b>James 1:2-4</b>      |
| <b>Philippians 1:29</b> | <b>Habakkuk 3:17-19</b> |
| <b>1 Peter 2:21</b>     | <b>1 Peter 4:13</b>     |
| <b>Romans 5:3-5</b>     | <b>Acts 14:21-22</b>    |



**What is this?** – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

## Welcome to Life Group!

### Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, take some time to catch up with each other as you gather.

If it helps, here's a question to discuss and get you going. Have everyone answer:

*When something uncomfortable comes your way—a tough conversation, a long wait, or a hard workout—are you more likely to **run from** it or **lean into** it?*

## Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

**Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.** For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

- Looking back at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time or anything that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
- When it comes to suffering, we are often wise to avoid it when we can—but when we can't, to *embrace* it, knowing God is in control. Can you think of a time you faced a hardship you just wanted to escape but couldn't? As you look back, what might God have been teaching you or shaping in you in the midst of it? (Note: this is *not* saying your suffering was necessarily a good thing—it's asking, *'How might or did our good God use that hard thing to shape good in you?'*)
  - Can you think of a time when something painful or negative in your life ended up becoming something God used for a positive purpose?
- Our relationship with God changes the way we see suffering. **Romans 5:3-4** describes a refining process—how perseverance, character, and hope are formed through hardship. As we walk through that process, other Scriptures help fill in what God is doing in us. How do the following verses deepen your understanding of the ways God refines and strengthens us through suffering?

**Romans 5:3-4 2 Thessalonians 1:4-5 James 1:1-2, 12 1 Peter 1:6-7**

- What are some ways God's refinement process has played out in your own life? — How might he be doing that work in your life *right now*?

*(Study Guide continues on back panel...)*

At Wawasee, each of us is growing to increasingly live out these four roles as we follow Jesus together.



**Secure Son/Daughter**

I live each day increasingly confident in being a loved child of God—resting in grace, not striving to achieve approval.



**Courageous Connector**

I cultivate honest relationships that cross barriers and create belonging—even before belief.



**Ready Storyteller**

I live each day with a sense of sentness, ready to reveal my story and God's story.



**Legacy Builder**

Because of Jesus, I multiply what has been given to me by spiritually investing in others for kingdom impact.

Word Find in the **Word**

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

**Word Find: Romans 5:6-10 (NLT)**

Find the words **bolded** below.

<sup>6</sup> When we were **utterly helpless**, Christ came at **just** the **right time** and died for us **sinners**. <sup>7</sup> Now, **most people** would not be willing to die for an **upright person**, **though someone** might **perhaps** be willing to die for a **person** who is **especially good**. <sup>8</sup> But God **showed** his **great love** for us by **sending Christ** to die for us while we were **still sinners**. <sup>9</sup> And since we have **been made right** in God's **sight** by the **blood of Christ**, he will **certainly save** us from God's **condemnation**. <sup>10</sup> For since our **friendship** with God was **restored** by the **death** of his Son while we were **still** his enemies, we will **certainly be saved** through the life of his Son.

E B E E N G F P E R S O N C  
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P E O P L E I R C A M E O B  
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**life groups** Study Guide *(continued)*

- Many of us may not have grown up hearing much about what the Bible says regarding suffering. Because of this, it can be difficult or disorienting to follow Jesus, yet still experience hardship, challenges, or loss. In those moments, it's important to remember we always have a *choice* in how we respond. As you read the following passages, notice how people responded to Jesus in the midst of their challenges. What can we learn from their example about how to respond to him in our own trials?

**John 4:4-42**

**Mark 5:25-34**

- How might the women have responded to Jesus if they had let their circumstances define them?
- Can you think of any ways you have let (or have been tempted to let) your own circumstances *define* you rather than *refine* you?

- It's a humbling truth that Jesus accepts us just as we are—flaws and all—and gives us a brand-new identity. That reality can be hard to fully embrace, especially when we feel unworthy of his grace. How might the following verses encourage someone who's struggling to accept and live out their new identity in Christ?

**Galatians 2:20**

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22**

**1 John 5:1-5**

- How is rooting our identity in Christ relevant to our suffering?
- Which of the verses above is most meaningful to you? Why?

**Taking it Home**

- Are there any difficult situations in your life right now where you'd like God to change your attitude or perspective? In what areas could you begin praying for him to use your trials for his glory and your growth?
- Looking back over this week's sermon and homework, what's the most important thing for you to remember?

*As you close, take time to pray with and for one another.*

This week's Study Guide is adapted in part from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at [wawaseebible.com/beliefs](http://wawaseebible.com/beliefs). Learn more about the EFCA at [efca.org](http://efca.org).

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PART 8

**Joy Through it All**

ROMANS 5:1-11



**We're Glad You're Here Today!**



Scan QR code for our **App** with **Bulletin, Connect Card, & more.**

<https://wawasee.today>