

Dec. 21

NEXT STEPS

God's Love Manifested To All Romans 5:1-11

Questions to *Dig Deeper*:

1. Romans 4 shows Abraham holding two truths in tension—what he saw and what God promised. Where in your life right now? Do you feel that same kind of tension—where “what’s true” and “what God says” seem hard to reconcile? How does that tension shape your experience of hope?
2. Paul describes a chain from suffering → perseverance → character → hope. When has a season of “being pressed” revealed something true about your character—good or hard—that ultimately deepened your dependence on God? What did that process teach you about hope?
3. Bill highlighted our tendency to assume hard = bad, and easy = good, even though growth often requires resistance. How have you seen God use “resistance” or difficulty in your life to grow you in ways that comfort alone never could? What helps you reinterpret hardship through a lens of hope?
4. Romans 5:6–8 says Christ died for us “at just the right time”—before we were good, deserving, or even looking for Him. Why do you think it is so hard for many of us to receive a love we can’t earn? How does truly believing that God loved you “while you were still a sinner” change the way you relate to Him—or to other people?
5. The passage ends by grounding our hope in reconciliation—peace with God, not performance for God. What would it look like for you to live more fully from that peace this Advent season? Where might God be inviting you to lay down striving and receive hope as a gift?

