

Week 6--October 25

How does God's grace give me strength and hope?

Focus

By grace, God loves you and will stop at nothing to prove it. The height of this pursuit is the cross where strength for today and hope for tomorrow meet.

Scripture Reading--Romans 5:15-17

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

Questions for the Journey

- How does awareness of sin increase your understanding of God's love for you?
- How does awareness of God's love for you free you from any sense of guilt or shame?
- Where or when was your lowest point in life? Was God there? Where was his love?
- What does it mean to you that "Christ died for us?" How does that give you strength today? How does that give you hope for tomorrow?

Drawing Closer

- Read the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) and put yourself into the story. Which character do you identify with the most? Why?
- Read the story again from a different character's point of view. How does your attitude change toward each character?
- *Go outside and pick up a handful of soil. As you do so, focus on these two symbols: dust and the cross. Even as you wash the dirt from your hands, remember the reality of your identity: You are dust redeemed by the cross.*

We used portions of *Discipleship Essentials* by Greg Ogden in this resource. For an even deeper exploration of your journey as a follower of Jesus, check out Chapter 10.