



MIND  
session page

## Non-Reactionary Love

Romans 5:1-11 | Session 9.12

### Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at [faithelement.net](http://faithelement.net).

### Context

Begin by asking:

- Think back to a time when someone intentionally did something against you. How was that relationship made right?
- If it was not, what do you think might have made it right?
- What steps do people usually need to take to make things right and who usually is expected to initiate this kind of reconciliation?
- Why is taking the first step to be reconciled and offer forgiveness such a powerful thing to do?

## Content

Read [Romans 5:1-11](#), then watch the Bible Background Video

Then ask:

- As you look back over the language of this whole passage – what is God doing?
- What are we doing, and what is being done to us or for us?
- While Paul says we now “have peace with God” (v.1), how does Paul in later verses describe our relationship with God?
- Why might the term "enemies" be too strong a word?
- Why would Paul say that we rejoice even when we are suffering (verses. 3-5)?
- Paul faced serious dangers in his ministry spending many months in prison and nearly losing his life several times, so what kind of suffering is he really talking about??
- In what way does this compare to dealing with smaller, day to day difficulties?.
- Why is it important that Jesus died for us, even when we were not ready and what does this say about our part in the process of being made right with God?
- Look again at verse 10: What did Jesus accomplish and why do you think Paul makes this distinction?

## Closure

Continue by asking:

- In this reading Paul talks a lot about what God has done to put us back in a right relationship, but what do you think Paul would say is our part?
- What kinds of things do people put in the way of being reconciled to God and what do you think Paul would say to this?
- If all of us were “enemies” before God put us right, who else might be capable of being saved and in what ways might this realization affect the way we tell others about God’s Good News?
- This passage is dense with theological words and concepts. If an unchurched person were to ask you what it’s about, how would you explain it to them in terms that they could understand?

Close with prayer.

**Writer: Jon Parks**