



LOOP Study Guide You Have Access Week 4

Key Scripture:

Romans 5:3-8

**Theme: Access → The Faith Circle
(Endurance)**

L — LOOK (Observe the Text)

Read: Romans 5:1–5

Paul lays out a spiritual progression:

Problems → Endurance → Character → Hope

This isn't accidental—it's a process that only works because of one key truth: **We have access to God through Jesus.**

Key observations:

- We are **justified by faith**
- We now **stand in grace**
- We still face **problems and trials**
- Those problems **produce endurance**

“Problems aren't the end of your story...they're the beginning of a process.”

Discussion Questions (LOOK)

- What stands out to you most in Romans 5:1–5?
- Why do you think Paul includes *suffering* as part of the Christian life?
- What does it mean to you personally that you “stand in grace”?
- How does this passage challenge the idea that faith should make life easier?

O — OBSERVE (What Does It Mean?)

1. Problems Are the Starting Point

Problems are not interruptions—they are part of God's process.

- Pressure reveals what's inside you
- Trials expose your foundation
- Problems are where transformation begins

“Access doesn't remove pressure—it gives it purpose.”

Even Elijah (1 Kings 19) encountered God not in the noise—but in the **quiet, difficult moment**.

Discussion Questions

- How do you usually respond when life isn't changing?
- Have you ever experienced God more clearly in a hard season than in an easy one?
- What pressure are you currently facing that might actually be shaping you?

2. Endurance Is the Bridge

Endurance = staying when everything in you wants to leave

- Not flashy or emotional
- Quiet, steady faith
- Staying connected to God under pressure

“Endurance is the bridge between what you're facing and what God is forming.”

Endurance is not:

- Just surviving
- Just waiting
- Just putting up with it

Endurance **is**:

- Active trust
- Daily dependence
- Staying connected to God

Discussion Questions

- Where in your life are you most tempted to quit right now?
- What's the difference between *enduring* and just *surviving*?
- Why do people often walk away too early in the process?
- What does it look like practically to “stay connected to God” in a hard season?

3. Access Changes Everything

Before Paul talks about endurance, he reminds us:

“We have gained access by faith into this grace...” (Romans 5:2)

This means:

- You are not trying to reach God—you already have Him
- You are not alone in your struggle
- God is holding you, even when you feel weak

Isaiah 41:13 — God holds your hand

Psalm 139 — You cannot escape His presence

“Endurance is not you holding on to God—it's trusting that He's holding on to you.”

Discussion Questions

- How does knowing you already have access to God change how you face pressure?
- Do you tend to try to handle things on your own or lean into God?
- What are practical ways you can “access” God daily (prayer, Scripture, worship, etc.)?

4. Endurance Builds Something in You

Endurance produces:

- Stability
- Strength
- Spiritual maturity

It teaches you:

- To remain when emotions fluctuate
- To trust when nothing makes sense
- To stand when nothing moves

“If you leave the process, you delay the promise.”

Discussion Questions

- Can you think of a time when staying produced growth in your life?
- What might you be delaying by walking away too soon?
- Why is endurance necessary before character and hope can develop?

O — OWN (Apply It Personally)

The **Faith Circle**:

Problems → Endurance → Character → Hope

Right now, you are somewhere in that circle.

Discussion Questions (OWN)

- Where are you currently?
 - In pressure?
 - Learning endurance?
 - Seeing growth in character?
 - Holding onto hope?
- What situation in your life is requiring endurance right now?
- What would it look like for you to “stay” instead of quit this week?
- Are you using the access to God you already have—or ignoring it?

P — PRACTICE (Live It Out)

This Week’s Focus: STAY

Instead of trying to escape your situation, choose to remain connected to God.

Daily Declarations

Encourage the group to speak these daily:

- “I still have access to God today.”
- “I still have access to His strength.”
- “I still have access to His peace.”
- “I still have access to His grace.”
- “I am not alone in this.”

Action Steps

- Identify one area where you feel like quitting
- Commit to **stay connected to God** in that area this week
- Spend intentional quiet time with God (like Elijah experienced)
- Replace panic with presence

Group Practice

- Share one area where you need endurance
- Pray specifically for strength to stay—not escape
- Encourage each other not to quit the process

Closing Thought

Jesus didn't quit.

- He endured the cross
- He stayed when it was painful
- He stayed when it cost everything

“The same grace that held Him on the cross is the same grace that will hold you in your process.”

Final Reflection Question

- What would change in your life if you truly believed that **God is holding you—even when everything feels like it's falling apart?**

THINGS HAPPENING AT FRESH START CHURCH:

- **Summer Serve** - Throughout the month of May we're going to be encouraging those that are not currently volunteering to try it out over the summer. Encourage anyone in your LOOP who is not volunteering to give it a try and sign up to be a part of a volunteer team over the summer.
- **ImpACT Golf Classic Giveaway Baskets** - Our ImpACT golf tournament will benefit the Atlantic City Rescue Mission this year. Our LOOPS are asked to help provide giveaway baskets that will be raffled off this year to help raise more funds. **Bring baskets to the church by Sunday, May 10th.**

Here's a message from the tournament's organizer, Jim DiDomenico with more info...

LOOP contribution has continued to make an extraordinary effort by providing IMPACT Auction Basket Prizes. Below is a list of guidelines to help build your basket:

1. The basket prize value minimum of \$80
2. Arrange items in the basket nicely and neatly to show appreciation to auction participants for their support.
3. Don't hesitate to go outside your loop to help build your basket. Great way to extend God's love working through Fresh Start.
4. Creative ideas are wide open, but here are a few past gems: Sport Equipment Basket, Kids Toys Basket, Grilling Basket, Pet Basket, At The Shore Basket, Spa Basket (a gift card can be used to accent the basket)
5. Date to collect baskets is requested to bring Sunday morning at either of the services. Please put inside the big glass room in lobby. Truly Thankful For Coming Alongside Each Classic Mission Event