



LOOP Study Guide You Have Access Week 5

Key Scripture:

Romans 5:3-8

Theme: Access → The Faith Circle
(Character)

L – LOOK (Observe the Text & Message)

Key Scripture:

Romans 5:3–4 — “We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope...”

Big Idea:

Faith is a process: **Trials** → **Endurance** → **Character** → **Hope**

But here’s the focus today:

Character must be supported by structure or it won’t last.

Key Truths from the Message:

- **Trials are the foundation** (pressure begins the process)
- **Endurance is the bridge** (staying when it’s hard)
- **Character is the structure** (who you become)

“You don’t need to try harder... you need to be built stronger.”

Illustration Recap: The Leaking Bucket

- You keep pouring water in... but it leaks out
- The issue isn’t the water—it’s the **structure**
- Behavior management ≠ transformation

Discussion Questions (LOOK):

1. Which part of the faith process do you feel like you’re in right now: trials, endurance, or character?
2. What stood out most to you from the message?
3. How would you define “character” in your own words?
4. Why do you think behavior change alone doesn’t last?

O – OBSERVE (What’s Really Happening?)

The Core Problem: Structural Weakness

Many people:

- Try to fix behavior
- But ignore structure

“If your life has no structure, your character has no support.”

Biblical Example: David (2 Samuel 11)

Where it started:

- “At the time when kings go to war... David stayed home”

What happened next:

Idle → wandering → looking → wanting → taking

- The fall didn’t start with sin
- It started with a **break in structure**

Key Insight:

“Unstructured time is dangerous time.”

Contrast: Younger David (1 Samuel 24)

David had:

- Discipline
- Conviction
- Structure

He chose integrity even when:

- Opportunity looked right
- Others encouraged it
- It felt justified

Discussion Questions (OBSERVE):

1. Where do you see “structure gaps” in your own life?
2. Have you ever experienced a “slow drift” rather than a sudden failure? What caused it?
3. Why is unstructured time so dangerous?
4. What’s one example of a “small compromise” that can lead to bigger ones?

O – OWN IT (Personal Reflection)

The Tension:

You can have access to God...

...but still live disconnected from Him.

“Access is the invitation. Structure is how you live in it.”

Ask Yourself Honestly:

- Where have I **stopped showing up**?
- What habits have I **let slide**?
- Where am I relying on **good intentions instead of real structure**?

Warning Signs of Weak Structure:

- Inconsistent spiritual life
- Emotional decision-making
- Returning to the same struggles
- Living in “recovery mode” instead of transformation

Discussion Questions (OWN IT):

1. What area of your life feels “leaky” right now?
2. Where are you relying on willpower instead of structure?
3. What is one habit you used to have that helped you stay grounded?
4. Are you more focused on fixing mistakes or building a better foundation?

P – PRACTICE (Build Structure for Character)

5 Structure Builders (Action Steps):

1. Daily Connection (Stay Connected to God)

John 15:4 – “Remain in me...”

Practice:

- Time with God daily
- Scripture before decisions
- Prayer before pressure

Ask:

- When is your consistent time with God?

2. Pre-Decided Boundaries

Proverbs 4:23 – “Guard your heart...”

Practice:

- Decide BEFORE temptation
- Set clear lines you won’t cross

Ask:

- What boundary do you need to set this week?

3. Consistent Rhythms

1 Timothy 4:7 – “Train yourself...”

Practice:

- Small daily habits

- Consistency over intensity

Ask:

- What is one habit you can do daily?

4. Godly Community

Proverbs 13:20 – “Walk with the wise...”

Practice:

- Accountability
- Honest relationships

Ask:

- Who has access to speak into your life?

5. Replace, Don't Just Remove

Ephesians 4:22–24

Practice:

- Replace old habits with new ones
- Fill empty space with purpose

Ask:

- What do you need to replace, not just remove?

Discussion Questions (PRACTICE):

1. Which of the 5 structure builders do you need most right now?
2. What is one practical step you can take this week?
3. Who can help hold you accountable?
4. What “empty space” in your life needs to be filled with something better?

Closing Thought

- Trials start the process
- Endurance keeps you in it
- Character is what gets built

But **structure is what sustains it.**

“You don't maintain character by trying harder... you maintain it by building a life that supports it.”

Final Challenge

- What structure do you need to build this week?
- What door do you need to close?
- What habit do you need to start?

Prayer Prompt

“God, show me where my structure is weak.
Help me build rhythms that support the life You’re forming in me.
Give me strength to stay, grow, and become who You’ve called me to be.
In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

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 join a team at Fresh Start. Check the Church Center app to join a team.
- **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