

### What Makes a Good Family

Compassion – Romans 5:1-8

#### Read & Reflect

1. Read Romans 5:1-8; then read it again out loud and slowly (especially if the passage is familiar to you). Read James 1:1-12 and compare it to the Romans 5 passage.
2. Refer to Psalm 103:8 and reflect on the ways in which God exercises compassion and graciousness in the Bible, and then in your own life.

#### Explore

3. Who is the crazy optimist in your family/group? Who is the eternal pessimist in your family/group?
4. What's the purpose, or aim in your family/group? Then compare it to your childhood family.  
 Being comfortable                       Discovery/ adventure                       Work to get ahead  
 Being safe                                       To survive                                       other
5. How well do you hold up when the going gets tough (hardship, worry, fear, anger, suffering); which virtues arise, which vices settle in? How have family circumstances shaped your character?
6. What does compassion look like in the various circumstances of family life? (Or – where does compassion need to be exercised in your family/group)
7. Hope in Christ is the bedrock of our lives ((Romans 5:1-2). What are some competing "hopes" in our families? Where is the strength of your hope now? When has it gone into the red zone, when has it gone into the green zone?



#### Pray:

- Praise God for the hope we have in Christ (sing "In Christ Alone")
- Lift up each other's families, committing to God the circumstances that require perseverance, blessing each other with grace and compassion.

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