

11TH - 12TH GRADE

I AM 3RD



Basketball



CENTENARY
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Memory Verse for the 3rd-6th grade: Romans 5:1-5

Verse: “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

Week 1: What is I AM 3RD?

I AM 3RD is based on a simple belief that Jesus Christ is first, others are second, and I am third.

We strongly believe that Jesus Christ is the most important person in our lives. (Matthew 25:40)

Doing our best in everything: We want to work at everything with all our hearts, as if we are working for the Lord. (Colossians 3:23-24)

Studying Scripture: We believe all Scripture is God-breathed (from God) and is useful for teaching, correcting, and training in goodness, so that through studying Scripture we may be equipped (ready) for every good work.

It is our prayer that we would gain a deeper understanding of what it means to follow Christ through our weekly devotions and times of prayer, in order to help us learn more about Jesus Christ and His importance in our lives. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



Week 2: Therefore, since we have been justified through faith

This basketball season, we will be spending our devotional time memorizing Romans 5:1-5. This is a very important passage for us to remember because it tells us the story of how God gave Himself up for us. The first part we will memorize together is “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith...” Faith is a strange concept. We throw the word around in churches a lot, and we often tell you that you need to have more of it. We say all of this, but much of the time we don't actually talk about what it means to have faith. Hebrews talks about faith as trusting deep down in things we cannot see. We cannot physically see God. We can see the way that He moves, and we can see aspects of His character through people. We can even see glimpses of God in Scripture and through the Holy Spirit. But in a physical, tangible way, we don't have that cold hard proof. That is why we have faith. Even though we cannot prove everything, or we understand every little piece of who God is, having faith is believing that God is who He says He is.

-How would you describe your faith? Do you believe that God is who He says He is?

Verse: “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith...”

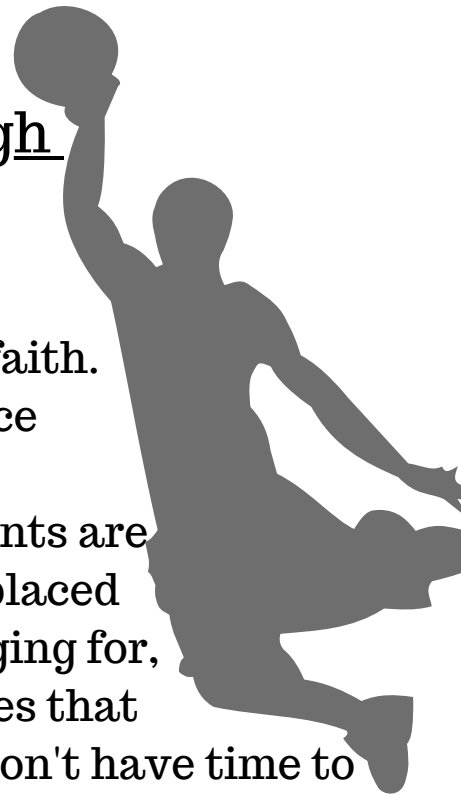
Week 3: We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Last week, we talked about what it means to have faith. Today we are looking at the phrase “...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...” Peace is something that we seem to all be looking for. Students are busier than ever before. We have pressures being placed on us from all sides. If there is anything we are longing for, it is peace. Many of us are looking for peace in places that don't satisfy. We add more to our schedules so we don't have time to think. We turn to alcohol, drugs, or vapes as a temporary escape. We scroll endlessly through media, looking for anything to distract us from our thoughts. Now these things that we turn to might work for a time, but they are not sustainable and they are not satisfying. Many times, there aren't healthy either. The good news, is that God offers us a peace that doesn't make sense. He offers us a peace that can be present in even the most challenging of times. That peace comes from relationship with Jesus. God truly wants the best for us, and He gives us the best. All we have to do is ask. And be in deep relationship with Him.

-If you look at your life, have you experienced God's peace? Do you even believe that His peace is real?

-What does your relationship with God look like?

Verse: “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”





Week 4: Through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand

Last week, we talked about how Jesus has provided us the most profound peace. Today we are looking at the phrase “...through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.” This passage works with the ones before, talking about how Jesus has provided us with these things. This phrase continues by telling us that Jesus gives us access to the grace of God. Grace is the idea that we are given something that we don't deserve. God is perfect, and holy, and wonderful. He does not need to give us a second chance, but He chooses to anyway. Romans tells us that the punishment for sin is death, but it also tells us that God provides grace for us, and wipes our sins clean. That is what Jesus did for us. Jesus made that possible. He bridged the gap between our sinfulness and God's holiness, so that we can have a relationship with Him.

- What does it mean to you that God shows you grace? Does that cause you to feel a certain emotion?
- How do you think we can/should respond to this grace that God has given us?

Verse: “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.”

Week 5: And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings

Last week, we talked about how God shows us grace because of our faith in Jesus. Today we are looking at the phrase “And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings...” We live in a world that is far from perfect. There will be things that go wrong, there will be heartbreak, and there will be hardships. God does not tell us that He will take those things away, but what He does tell us is that when we go through trials and hardships, God walks with us. Our hope comes from the fact that no matter the circumstance, God will always faithfully walk alongside us. God is there with us in the times of joy, and God is also there in the times where we are suffering or struggling. God is so faithful.

-Can you think of a time when you experienced God’s hope?

-Is there a situation that you are walking through lately that you need God’s hope in?

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Week 6: Because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character, and character hope.

Last week, we talked about how we can find hope in who God is.

Today we are looking at the phrase “...because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” This builds on what was talked about last week, about how God provides us hope in difficult times. We often think about times when we are struggling as a bad thing, and to some extent they can be. The good news is, God takes things that are broken or painful and He redeems them. Imagine pieces of broken glass that have been reassembled as a beautiful mosaic. This is a great image of what God does with us and with circumstances we are walking through. He takes the broken pieces and He turns them into something even more beautiful than they were to start with. That is why we can have hope in trials and in suffering, because we know that God’s character is good, and that He is consistent. We can trust Him with our broken pieces.

- When you think about trusting God with the parts of your life that feel broken, what does that feel like? Does that bring you hope, or does that scare you?
- Have you seen suffering produce perseverance in your own life? Or perseverance produce character? Or character produce hope?

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Week 7: And hope does not put us to shame

Last week, we talked about how we can have hope in God because He is constantly redeeming our struggles and our broken bits.

Today we are looking at the phrase “And hope does not put us to shame...” Other translations of this verse say that God’s hope is a hope that does not let us down, it is a hope that we can trust and count on. When God says He will do something, He does it. He is the greatest promise keeper of all time. Hope is hard to have, often because we have been let down time and time again. The good news is that when we put out hope and our trust in God, we truly can be confident that God will not let us down.

- Can you think of a time when you got your hopes up and then were severely disappointed with someone or something?
- We talk about God as a promise keeper. Have you ever seen God follow through on a promise? Or heard a story of Him following through on a promise for someone you care about?

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Week 8: Because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Last week, we talked about how the hope that God gives us is a hope that we can trust. Today we are looking at the phrase "...because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." This is the bow that ties it all together. God loves us so deeply that through the Holy Spirit, He lives inside of us. He walks with us day-in and day-out. In the highs and in the lows. In the joys and in the sorrow. God is so faithfully living in us, constantly reminding us of His love and devotion for us. All we have to do is accept it. We don't have to be perfect to have a relationship with God. We don't have to clean ourselves up to talk to Him. We just have to come to Him with open hearts and open minds, ready to receive what He has, and open to accepting His love and affection. Jesus died for you, all because God wants to be in relationship with you. That's a huge deal. Never forget just how much He loves and just how much He cares.

-Do you have a relationship with the Lord?

-Do you believe that God has given the Holy Spirit to us?

-If you have a relationship with God, what does it mean that God lives inside of us through the Spirit? Have you seen the power of the Spirit work in your life?

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Week 9: Season Reflection and Review

Take a few minutes to reflect on this season.

Questions:

What are some memories you made? What will you take away from the devotional time this season?





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