[13] "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. [14] BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.
MATTHEW 7:13-14

es-sen-tials (ĭ-sĕn'shəlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

The Letter of the Apostle Paul to the

Romans

A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION SIX

Romans 5:1-21

Questions for Session Six

1. What kind of *peace with God* did persons living under the laws of the Old Testament experience compared with the believers living in the time of the New Covenant? What are the benefits of justification that Paul outlined in vv. 1-11?

2. How are we *justified*? According to v. 2 in what are we to rejoice? Explain Paul's way to hope in God as he outlined in v. 4. How can we apply this to our own lives here in the twenty-first century? Explain your personal experience.

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3. Explain God's love for us as outlined in vv. 6-8. Where was humanity ranked in all of this? Even though we were created in the image of God, we were separated from God by the sinful nature of humanity. How do you explain this concept?

4. In vv. 9-11 Paul explains that we have received reconciliation through Jesus Christ. Paul asks two rhetorical questions. 1) Through *justification*, how much more will we be saved from God's wrath? 2) Through *reconciliation*, how much more will we be saved through his life? What did you find in your study Bible about this?

5. What early biblical story comes to mind regarding original sin in vv. 12-13? Name others, who are identified in succeeding generations. How does this support Paul's argument in these verses? How do you interpret this as it relates to your own life and family members, who came before you?

6. Explain v. 13. How does God's gift of grace, which is explained in v. 15, fully illustrate the magnitude of God's forgiveness of our fallen humanity?

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7. How can we, as twenty-first century Christians, express the tension that exists between the sinfulness of one person, who caused the death of many, versus the death and resurrection of one man, who brought life to many (vv. 15-16)?

8. Paul restates this dichotomy or tension between the sin of one man and the death of many versus the death of one man and the life of many several times in vv. 16-19. Why do you suppose Paul sees this as important enough to repeatedly pursue in somewhat different language each time?

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