

## From the Heart: Scripture Speaks

From the Heart

### READINGS

**Romans 5:1-8 (Justification by Faith: Peace and Joy)** 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. You see, at just the right time when we were still powerless Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**Romans 8:28** We know that in all things God works together for good with those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

### Summary

- A The Bible is God's living word and speaks to us directly today.  
God uses people to speak scripture to us to help us stay on the narrow path.
- B God is active in our lives in the best of times and the worst of times.  
He can make good out of our suffering and the suffering of our loved ones.

### Conversation Starters

1. What is the biggest regret you have ever had in your life?
2. Do you ever wonder why bad things happen to you or to others?

### Start thinking and sharing

3. How do you deal with feelings of regret or guilt? Is it ever right to feel ashamed?
4. How do you cope with disappointments/failures, especially self-inflicted ones?
5. How does your faith help you when you or your loved ones are suffering?
6. How can we best help those whose faith is shaken by bad events in their life?

### Start praying

7. Reflect on any burdens you are carrying from the past, and pray for release.
8. Ask for God's help to cope with the things that are burdening you today.

### Start doing

9. Try to become aware of how God is working for good in bad situations today.
10. Look for situations where you are being called according to His purpose to help.