

# The Bible Doesn't Say That You Get What You Deserve

## Key Scriptures

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. Romans 3:23-24 NLT

... By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ... God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. Ephesians 2:3-6, 8-9 NLT

He [God] does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. Psalm 103:10-12 NLT

Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One." ... One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!" But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:32-35, 39-43 NLT

## TALK IT OVER

### Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Why do you think the idea of getting what you deserve is so popular?
- What are the pros and cons of a "you get what you deserve" mindset?

### Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- What areas of life can often make us feel guilty? What is it about those areas that can cause us to feel that way?
- Read Psalm 103:10-12. Why does God not give us what we deserve?

### Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Describe a time when someone could have given you what you deserved, but they gave you grace instead.
- In what ways can God's mercy and grace transform us?
- How can we show Jesus' love to others—to our family, friends, and those in our community?

### Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

*Father, thank You for saving us. Thank You for Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. Thank You for the Holy Spirit's work in renewing our hearts and minds every day. Lead us in sharing the good news of Your grace with those around us. In Jesus' name, amen.*

### Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Spend time in prayer this week, thanking God for His great love for us and the grace He's freely given us.
- Choose one person or situation that you have been giving or hoping to give what they deserve and instead choose to forgive and let it go. Give what is not deserved.
- Start a Bible Study or Bible reading plan on guilt and/or unforgiveness. The YouVersion Bible app is a great resource if you don't know where to look.