

## Questions for eGroup Discussion

# *Good News for Sinners*

April 7-8, 2018

Alan Kraft, Lead Pastor

### How to Use This Guide in a Group Setting

**Group Participants:** Review your notes from the message and ask the Holy Spirit to continue to speak to you about your life. Come to eGroup prepared to participate. Watch the message online if you missed it live.

**Group Leaders:** Give everyone the chance to share, focusing on the questions that connect most with your group. Don't feel you must answer every question. If someone missed the message, allow time for others to fill them in on the main points and highlights.

## Getting Started

In general ...

In what area do you feel the most confidence or pride these days?

Where do you feel the most insecurity or need to get your act more together?

How about in the area of your spiritual growth or relationship with God?

## Embrace the Gospel

In our eGroup discussion guides, we're utilizing a simple structure for studying the Bible together, based on the acronym S.O.A.P. ...

**Spirit:** *Invite The Holy Spirit To Speak To You and To Guide Your Discussion*

Begin by praying and inviting the Spirit's activity into your discussion and application of God's Word.

### Observation: *What Does This Passage Say?*

Read aloud Luke 18:9-17.

In general, what stands out to you from these verses, or from Pastor Alan's message on these verses this weekend?

What do these verses teach us about God, and what it means to have an authentic, growing relationship with Him?

What does it mean to be "justified before God?" (verse 14)

What does this parable teach us about what leads to this occurring, and what could interfere with it happening?

How does verse 9 help us see what's at the heart of whether this occurs or not?

What spiritual blind spots and perspective of others did the Pharisee have that kept him from seeing his condition and his need for God? (verses 11-12)

In contrast, what do we see from the tax collector? (verse 13)

What's the irony that Jesus used these two groups of people to make the point of His story?

## Embrace the Gospel Continued

Read aloud Philippians 3:1-10.

In what ways is Paul an example of what Jesus is talking about in His story?

What transformation do we see Paul experiencing in the source of his confidence? What do you imagine it was like for him to experience this transformation?

What difference does it make that the Greek word in each passage is the same: confidence. Also, that “flesh” doesn’t mean “sinful flesh” but our own human effort?

### **A**pplication: *What Is God Saying To Us/Me?*

What’s the big-picture take away of this week’s message and these verses for a person who has yet to become a follower of Christ? How about for a Christ-follower who is feeling exhausted in their relationship with Christ?

In what area are you most likely to be like the Pharisee in Jesus’ story?

Where do you feel most like the tax collector or the Apostle Paul?

How might you rest more fully in Christ’s atonement for you?

What did you most need to hear or be reminded of this week in the message or your eGroup discussion?

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to take the next step in applying these insights to your life?

## Experience the Spirit

### *Prayer: Ask For God's Help In Living Out His Word*

As you pray for one another this week, begin by praying for one another's relationship with Christ, including areas where people sense the need to experience Him and His atonement more completely.

When you're done, spend time praying for general needs and concerns for one another.

## Engage in Mission

It's our desire that every individual and eGroup at Christ Community make a difference by compassionately moving outward toward people who are lost, needy, and broken, demonstrating the love of Jesus in highly relational ways. This is one of the ways it might look like ...

One of our eGroup couples recently hosted an informal social gathering in which they intentionally blended friends from their eGroup with neighbors they are seeking to influence for Christ. As conversations spontaneously occurred between CCC and non-CCC people, it became natural to talk about the eGroup, things that are going on these days at Christ Community, and areas of shared passion for our community. It also enabled CCC people to show a genuine interest in these neighbors, inquisitively asking questions, listening to their stories, and sharing several points of commonality. Afterwards, one of the neighbor couples shared how these conversations lowered some barriers they perceived between them and "evangelical Christians," and opened doors to a new paradigm of thinking about "the church." A follow-up dinner is being planned in the near future.

How might you and your eGroup be intentional in doing something like this? Why not talk about it this week?



Weekly Messages are available in audio and video at [ccgreeley.org](http://ccgreeley.org) or on our free App.