

onechurch

bigIdea small group discussion



We all want to do what's right all the time, but we sometimes we end up doing what we don't want to do. It seems unavoidable. If we can't even live by our own standards, how are we supposed to live by God's? And how can we be made right with God once we have messed up? Is there any hope? Is it about what we *do*—trying harder, following the rules. Or is it about a *who*—someone who can make us right with God?

BIG IDEA: Just as one unrighteous act of one man ensured you were born a slave to sin, so the single righteous act of one man frees you from the power of sin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Has a person in your life ignored good advice and suffered for it? How did you respond to that person's choices?
2. Talk about a time when you did something—big or small—that you knew was a bad idea. Why did you do it even though you knew it wasn't wise? What consequences did you suffer?
3. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Romans 3:9-20.* How are all human beings portrayed in this passage? What is your definition of sin?
4. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Romans 3:21-26.* We stand before a holy and perfect God and before His law and we have to say, "I can't measure up. I can't deal with my own sins. I can't make it on my own." What has God done to make it possible for us to measure up, find forgiveness from our sins, and make it into heaven?
5. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Romans 3:21-26 in the NIV and then read the same passage in the NLT.* In your own words, define *righteousness* (Romans 3:21). *Grace* (Romans 3:24). *Justification* (Romans 3:24). *Redemption* (Romans 3:24). *Propitiation* (Romans 3:25).
6. Describe when you first realized the price God paid to offer you forgiveness of sins. How does this reality impact the way you live your life today?
7. How does the sacrifice and shed blood of Jesus (3:25) satisfy God's demands for justice?
8. When you reflect on the reality that Jesus paid the price of His own blood and life so that you could be forgiven of your sins, how does that make you feel?

MOVING FORWARD

When you became a Christian you were taken *out* of Adam and baptized *into* Christ. What was true of Adam was true of you: you were condemned, guilty, unrighteous, a slave of sin. In Christ, what is true of Christ is true of you: you're free from sin. Choose an area of your life that Paul's struggle reminds you of. As you begin your wrestling match, whisper: *Sin is not my master. I am dead to sin but alive to God.* Why? Because your identity has changed. God sees you as Justified!

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Yet God, with undeserved kindness (that's Grace), declares that we are righteous (that's Justification). He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us (that's Redemption) from the penalty for our sins. Romans 3:24