

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

DISCUSSION GUIDES

EVERY MONDAY

Discussion Guide

Sunday Sermon 8.16.26



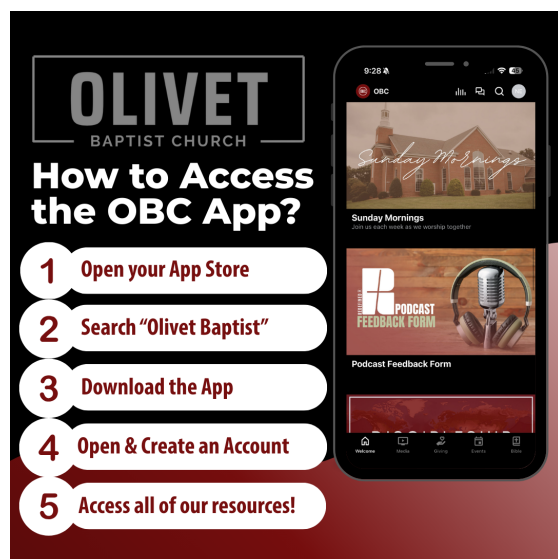
The Riches of Grace

Part 1: Justified by Faith

This guide is designed to help your family or group take what was taught on Sunday and move from simply hearing the information to applying it in ways that build up and encourage one another. Feel free to adjust the depth and number of questions based on your time and the size of your group.

Access the Sermon on the Website & App:

[Click Here](#)



Before You Meet

Encourage group members to read Romans 3:10-23 and Romans 5:1-5 before gathering. Ask them to come prepared to share one thing from the passage that stood out to them.

Key Takeaways

- 1. Justification is a declaration, not a process.** To be justified means to be declared righteous by God. It is a one-time act, not something that must be repeated or maintained through personal effort. The moment a sinner trusts in Christ alone, God credits the righteousness of Jesus to that person's account.
 - 2. The problem of sin is more serious than the world acknowledges.** Romans 3 makes clear that apart from Christ, no one is righteous, no one seeks God, and no one can fix the problem through their own effort. Understanding the depth of the problem is what makes the gift of justification so extraordinary.
 - 3. Saving faith is more than knowledge or agreement.** Faith involves knowing the gospel, affirming that it is true, and personally trusting in Christ alone. All three elements matter. Many people stop short of the personal trust that brings justification.
 - 4. Justification should change how we live every day.** Because God has already declared believers righteous in Christ, there is no need to spend life trying to earn His acceptance. The proper response is gratitude, boldness, and a desire to pursue holiness out of love rather than obligation.
-

Discussion Questions

Opening (Getting the Conversation Started)

1. The pastor mentioned that one of the greatest dangers in the Christian life is not forgetting that Jesus saved you, but forgetting how great that salvation really is. Have you experienced that in your own life? What tends to cause you to drift from a deep appreciation of what God has done for you?
2. If someone asked you right now to explain what it means to be justified by faith, how would you describe it in your own words.

Going Deeper

3. Pastor Matt described justification as a declaration rather than a process, meaning God is not making us righteous over time but declaring us righteous at the moment of faith. Why do you think so many people struggle to accept that this is truly a one-time, settled reality? What doubts or habits of thinking tend to undermine that confidence?
 4. Romans 3:10-12 describes humanity apart from Christ as none righteous, none who understand, and none who seek after God. The pastor pointed out that this means God came after us, not the other way around. How does that truth affect the way you think about your own salvation and your interactions with people who are far from God?
 5. Pastor Matt broke saving faith into three parts: knowing the gospel, affirming it is true, and personally trusting in Christ alone. Which of these three do you think is most commonly missing when people assume they are right with God without truly being born again? Why?
 6. Pastor Matt used the illustration of a chair to explain faith. You can know the chair exists, believe it will hold you, and still never sit in it. Where have you seen this play out in real life, either in your own journey or in someone you know?
 7. Pastor Matt said, "If God has already declared you righteous in Christ, then you don't have to spend another day trying to earn the favor of God." In what areas of your life do you still find yourself trying to earn God's acceptance rather than resting in what Christ has already done?
-

Honest Reflection

8. Pastor Matt challenged the group by saying the gospel should be enough to motivate believers to share their faith without needing external programs or pressure to do so. How honestly would you say the gospel motivates your daily life and your conversations with people around you? What gets in the way?
 9. Pastor Matt asked, "Where are we going to offend them to? Hell number two?" His point was that the fear of offending people should not keep us from asking honest questions about someone's relationship with God. What holds you back most from having those conversations, and how does a deeper understanding of justification help address that fear?
 10. Romans 8:1 says there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Are there areas of your life where you are still living under condemnation even though God has declared you righteous? What would it look like to practically walk in that freedom this week?
-

Practical Applications

Individually

- Take time this week to read Romans 4 and study the concept of imputation. Write down in your own words what it means that Abraham was declared righteous by faith before the law ever existed, and how that truth applies to your own standing before God.
- Identify one area of your life where you have been trying to earn God's acceptance rather than living from the acceptance you already have in Christ. Bring that area before God in prayer and ask him to help you rest in what has already been declared over your life.
- Memorize Romans 5:1. Let it serve as a daily reminder of your standing before God.

As a Group

- Practice the simple question the pastor suggested: "How is your relationship with God?" Commit as a group to asking that question to at least one person outside the church this week. Come back next meeting ready to share what happened.
- Pray together for specific people in your lives who are not yet justified by faith. Name them out loud. Ask God to open doors for honest conversations and to give your group members the boldness to walk through those doors.

Closing Thought

Pastor Matt closed with these words from his prayer: "There was a moment when I trusted you and your provision through Christ that you declared, Matt Rummage, you're righteous. And to know that there's not a single one in this world that could ever have the power enough to come along and revoke what you have declared."

That declaration belongs to every person who has trusted in Christ alone. Let that truth sink in deeply this week, and let it be the foundation from which everything else in your life flows.
