



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families

For the week of February 19, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

What is one rule you have that makes you feel good when you keep it, but irritated or depressed when it is broken. How does keeping that rule give you a sense of personal righteousness?

Romans 3:21-31

Just and Justifier

- **Last week, Paul helped us see that no one is righteous before God on their own ([Romans 3:1-20](#)). This week we'll see how we receive righteousness from God (3:21-24) and what God does to provide righteousness for us (3:25-31).**

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

- **What is "righteousness from God"?**
- **How do we receive "righteousness from God"? (25)**
- **Can't God just forgive us? Why does God only justify through Jesus Christ's "propitiation" (atoning sacrifice)?**
- **How does Jesus' atoning sacrifice make God both "just" AND "the justifier" of those who believe? (26)**

No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

- **Paul says that God's way of righteousness excludes boasting (27). How does it do that?**
- **Righteousness by faith in Christ actually upholds God's Law (31). How does that work?**
- **What you boast in is what fundamentally defines you, what gives you confidence. How has the Gospel excluded boasting in you?**
- **After reading today's passage, how would you explain God's way of righteousness to someone?**
- **Pray together in light of this week's passage.**

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene,
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²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works?