

Discussion Guide

Discussion Guides accompany the [weekly message](#).

Opening Activity:

If you could receive one ridiculous lifetime supply for free—no work and no catch—what would you choose, and what would you do with all of it?

Read:

Romans 3:21-31

Ephesians 2:8-10

Discussion Questions:

1. Romans 3:21 begins with “But now.” After Paul’s diagnosis of sin, what has God done that we could never do for ourselves? Which part gives you the most hope?
2. God’s righteousness is received through faith in Jesus and offered to all who believe. How does this humble those who feel spiritually successful and encourage those who feel disqualified?
3. Justification is God’s gracious declaration that a guilty sinner is righteous because of Jesus’ finished work, received through faith. How is that different from God ignoring sin—or waiting for us to become good enough?
4. Romans 3:25-26 shows God as both just and the One who justifies. Why can’t God simply ignore sin? What does the cross reveal about both sin’s seriousness and God’s love?
5. The sermon connects Jesus with the mercy seat, where atoning blood covered Israel’s sin. How does that picture deepen your understanding of Jesus as our once-for-all sacrifice?
6. “Grace isn’t something you achieve; it is something you receive.” Where are you tempted to measure your standing with God by performance, failure, feelings, or comparison?
7. What habits reveal that we still live like spiritual orphans instead of beloved members of God’s family? What truth helps us live differently?
8. Biblical faith is not merely knowing facts or trying harder; it is relying on Jesus’ finished work. What helps you move from self-reliance to trust in Christ when guilt, fear, or pressure rises?
9. Ephesians 2:8-10 places good works after salvation, not before it. How does grateful obedience differ from trying to earn God’s acceptance? What fruit should grace produce in us?
10. In the great exchange, we bring sin, guilt, and inability; Jesus brings righteousness, sacrifice, and finished work. Which side is hardest for you to admit or receive? How can this group encourage you with the gospel?

Challenge for the Week:

Ask someone where they feel pressure to prove themselves. Listen without fixing, share how Jesus’ grace frees us from earning acceptance, and offer one practical act of care.