

Sermon Discussion Guide

Icebreaker

Have you ever believed you understood something important—only to later realize you didn’t fully grasp it?

- What changed your understanding?
- How did that new clarity affect you?

Discussion Questions

1. From Tension to Hope (Romans 3:21–26)

Paul spends three chapters establishing universal guilt before introducing the words “But now...” (3:21).

- Why is it important to fully understand the problem of sin before we can appreciate justification?
- What stands out to you most about God being both “just” and “the one who justifies”?

2. Faith, Not Works (Romans 4)

Abraham was declared righteous because he believed God, not because of his works.

- In what subtle ways are we tempted to rely on our own goodness, performance, or religious activity?
- What does it practically look like to *rest* in God’s promises instead of striving to earn His approval?

3. The Results of Justification (Romans 5:1–11)

Because we are justified by faith, we now have peace, access to grace, hope, and reconciliation.

- Which result of justification (peace, hope, reconciliation, love, etc.) do you most need to lean into right now?
- How does knowing Christ died for you “while you were still a sinner” shape your view of God’s love?

4. Hope in Suffering

Paul says suffering produces perseverance, character, and hope (5:3–5).

- How have you seen God grow hope through difficulty in your own life?
- What would it look like to trust God’s “equation” even when you’re in the suffering stage?

Takeaway

The gospel equation is clear: **Sin brought death, but Christ’s obedient sacrifice brings life.** We are not justified by striving, but by trusting—faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Because of that faith, we now stand in peace, grace, and hope. This week, ask yourself:

Am I striving to earn what Christ has already secured, or am I resting in the righteousness given to me by grace?

Rejoice—not in your performance—but in your Savior.