

## PRAYER

- Thank God for saving and freeing you from your old life. Ask Him for the continued strength to say no to sin, as you are made more and more Christlike.
- Ask God to always remind you that you do not have to earn your righteousness, but that He has freely given it to you. Pray that you will live life not taking His gift for granted.
- Pray for your family, friends, and community that have not yet received Jesus as Lord and Savior. Pray that they too will understand and receive the hope of eternal life as heirs of the kingdom of God.

## NOTES

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## Justifying Grace

WEEK 1

### WARM-UP

- Have you ever experienced removing stains on your clothes that you thought were impossible to clean? What happened?
- What place have you been to that you would like to return to one day? Why?
- If you were to write your will now, to whom would you leave your possessions? Why?

**WORD** . . . so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. **TITUS 3:7**

(Read also **TITUS 3:3-6.**)

We were *justified by grace* when God saved us. Justification says something about our standing before God—He has made us clean in His eyes. Paul, in his letter to Titus, paints a vivid picture of how evil we were before we met God—*foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another* (Titus 3:3). Without the grace of God, that would still be how our current state. How does God's justifying grace work? How did He save us?

## 1 | God saved us from our old sinful life.

*4But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit . . .* **TITUS 3:4,5**

God did not save us because we were good and earned His approval. Our salvation is all because of His mercy. He alone made us righteous, even when we deserved punishment. When we were slaves to sin, God set us free from our old sinful life. How has your lifestyle changed since you encountered God's justifying grace?

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## 2 | God saved us through the work of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

*5. . . he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior . . .* **TITUS 3:5,6**

We were saved by the "regeneration" that the Holy Spirit brings us—this is renewal in our soul and spirit. And this is done in us as we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, acknowledging what He did for us—He died in our place so our sins could be forgiven through His sacrifice. This is not because of anything we've done. Why did God do this for us? (Romans 5:8)

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## 3 | God saved us so that we might have eternal life.

*. . . so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.* **TITUS 3:7**

This is the life that we have in Jesus: By God's justifying grace, we are saved and are heirs with the *hope of eternal life*. We were not just saved from the punishment that we deserve because of our sins, but we can have eternal life with Him. This eternal life is not just about the length of time we have with God, but it is the true kind of life that we can enjoy. How do you live now, knowing that you have the hope of eternal life?

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### APPLICATION

- Are there still some things in your old life that you tend to look back to? What is one thing you can do this week to invite God's justifying grace to help you overcome this area?
- How can you rely more on His grace to continue living out your freedom in Christ? Read and meditate on Titus 3:4–7 throughout the week.
- This week, with whom can you share the hope of eternal life that can be found in Jesus Christ?