

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

DONE, WEEK 2: JUSTIFICATION

Tips: Keep this conversation flowing and tight. Maximize participation. Be sensitive to any not-yet-Christians.

Optional opening question

- Would you describe yourself as a performance-orientated person – someone whose sense of self-worth is linked closely to how well you're performing in work, faith etc?

Quick Bible study on justification...

- **Read Romans 3:19,20 and 23.** What do you learn from these verses about our guilt before a Holy God?
- **Read Romans 3:21-25.** What do we learn from these verses about the righteousness God gives us?
- **Read Isaiah 53:5-6 and 2 Cor 5:21.** From these verses what do we learn about how God justifies us?

Applying justification to our lives.

- The doctrine of justification is this: *'On the cross Christ took my guilt and gave me his righteousness instead. Now, through faith in Christ, I am totally accepted by God not on the basis of anything I do, but on the basis of what Christ had done for me. Justification is something that happens in heaven, not in our heart. It is not a change in our state, but a change in our status in the sight of God.'*
- As a group, discuss how this doctrine – if we really 'get' it – will impact upon the following aspects of life:
 - How we feel about God.
 - How we approach God.
 - How we treat people in general.
 - How we treat people who have made a mess of their lives.
 - What we do when we're tempted to be proud.
 - What we do when we've sinned and feel unworthy.
 - How to help people who think that before God will accept them, they must obey him.

Reflection question

- Any one thing you want to remember in light of this conversation?
- Any one thing you want to change in your life or relationship with God in light of this conversation?

Prayer

- Respond in prayer to the insights gleaned in this conversation. Also, pray for any people you want to invite to Good Friday and/or Easter Sunday.