Date | November 28, 2021 Family Theme | Justified by Faith Study Text | Romans 5:1-21

Objective: Children understand that those who are justified by faith in Christ can live for Him with joy and hope because they are at peace with God.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Paul wrote this letter to Christians in Rome around AD 57. He wrote from Corinth during his third missionary journey taking the gospel to Gentiles who needed to hear.

<u>Bible Basics:</u> Review the names and order of books nine through fourteen of the Old Testament (1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles) this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Romans 5:1-21

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that our sins made us enemies of God. However, we can have peace with God by trusting in what Christ did for us on the cross.



Key Truth: Those Justified by Faith in Christ Have Peace With God (Romans 5:1-11)

We are justified by faith, not by works or righteous acts. This justification produces results. First, it brings us peace with God, through Christ. There is no further reason for contention between God and believers. There is nothing left to separate us. Justification also brings us into grace. God's favor is on the believer. We rejoice in the hope of God's glory, and we can also rejoice even in our suffering. The suffering Paul had in mind comes from opposition and even mistreatment by those who do not believe. Suffering builds character, which produces hope. We were not worthy of this. Indeed, we were still in rebellion against God. Yet Jesus died for us, proving God's great love for us. Justification, our initial not-guilty verdict, was not the end, but rather the beginning of reconciliation. Our relationship with God has changed because of the not-guilty verdict. We are now free to live as God's friends, reconciled to Him.



Key Truth: Jesus Brings Grace and Abundant Life to Those Who Trust in Him (Romans 5:2, 12-21)

In this next section, Paul compared and contrasted the results of Adam's sin and Jesus' righteousness. We are all sinners because we inherit the sin nature through Adam. A sinful nature has been passed on to all people born from Adam, and sin has always brought death. But what about those people who lived after Adam, but before Moses gave the people God's Law? How could God hold that against them? For Paul, it was clear that people sinned in the years between Adam and Moses — they all died because of sin, even if they did not know all the stipulations of the Law. Everyone had the moral law of God written on their hearts and knew right from wrong (Romans 2:14-15). The point of Paul's argument in these verses is that the problem and consequence of sin flowed from one person — Adam — to all people. In contrast, the remedy of sin also flows from one person — Jesus Christ — to all people. Adam's sin brought death to all who came from him afterward. But the actions of Jesus have brought abundant life for all who come from Him afterward. Inheriting death through Adam pales in comparison to inheriting abundant grace and righteousness for

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living through Jesus Christ. Did the Law actually create more sin (increase the trespass)? No, it increased the trespass by making it more evident to us. The sin was there already; the law put the spotlight on it. Yet even in those years, God was gracious, dealing with people in view of what Jesus would accomplish.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- What does it mean that believers in Christ are justified in God's eyes?
- · Why is it not possible to be justified by our good works?
- What does it mean that justification brings us peace with God?
- Why are people under the wrath of God if they have not been justified in God's eyes?
- How should we respond to the fact that we have peace with God and are no longer under His wrath?
- What does it mean that we have access to God's grace through justification by faith?
- · How could you demonstrate your gratitude to God this week for the grace He has poured out in your life?
- For Elementary: What is grace?
- For Elementary: What are some gifts that come with God's grace?
- For Elementary: How could you demonstrate your gratitude to God this week for the grace He has poured out in your life?

Everyday Extras

Filthy rags! Secretly gather up the worst of the cleaning rags at your house and put them in the bottom of a brown paper bag. Then ask your children to help you collect some "good deeds" that would get you into Heaven (went to church, gave money to missionaries, was kind to neighbor, etc.). Write them down on slips of paper and place them in the bag. Pretend that you began showing God what was in your bag to see what He thought of it. Instead of pulling out the paper, pull out the cleaning rags, one at a time. That's what God says our good deeds are: just filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). The only way we can get to Heaven is by faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for us!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE & ROUND

Today your child learned when the father saw his son returning home, he ran to meet him. He forgave his son and celebrated his return. But the older brother did not understand that both he and his brother were special to his father. **We Are Special to God**, and He forgives us and celebrates our return when we come back to Him..