



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 3

December 18th & 19th, 2010

Small Group Warm-Up

Have you ever had a friend who made you feel welcome and included at all times? If so, describe that person and how your relationship got started.

Opening Prayer:

Father God, thank you for wanting to include us in your family so much that you sent Jesus to take care of our sin problem.

Discussion Questions:

Read Romans 3:21-26

Paul is writing to the early church in Rome to help them understand clearly what Jesus came to do. Re-read verses 23 and 24. What does Paul tell us Jesus came to do?

Have you ever served on jury duty? What is required in order to convict someone of a crime? What is needed in order for someone to be found “not guilty”?

This weekend Pastor Ryan reminded us that we have all grown up in a sin-filled world. We are so used to things being as they are that it's hard for us to imagine a sin-free world. How would the world be different without the influence of greed and selfishness?

Read Romans 5:6-11

Ryan shared that a “mistake” is when you try hard to do something right, but fall a little short. “Sin” is when you willingly choose to do what you know is wrong. Wrong behavior has consequences. Our relationship with God is impacted by our bad choices, and our relationships with others can go sour as well.

Re-read verse 8. How did God demonstrate his love for us? Have you ever had another person reach out to you and try to reconcile a relationship that went bad? If so, what was the outcome?

Read Revelation 22:17

Have you ever tried to get a child to eat or drink something they didn't want? Tell a little about that experience.

There is only one requirement to receiving “*the free gift of the water of life*” mentioned in this passage. What is it? What happens when you try to force someone to receive this free gift?

Read Romans 8:1-2

Jesus came to set us free from guilt and condemnation. Pastor Ryan taught us that Jesus has removed every barrier to our relationship with him except one: our pride.

For personal reflection:

Is your pride holding you back from experiencing a relationship with God or with someone else? Are you ready to humble yourself and receive God's grace by faith?

Closing Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for loving me just as I am, with all my faults. Today I choose to humble myself and to ask you to forgive me for my sins and to set me free from guilt and condemnation. Your Word says that I am justified by faith. I choose to put my faith in you today.

