

This midweek study will explore how justification comes through faith alone in Christ alone. Use the following outline, activity, playlist, and video ideas to lead a midweek event for your students.

Essential Doctrine: Justification by Faith

Justification refers to the moment when a person is objectively declared righteous before God based on the righteousness of Christ's atoning death (Rom. 8:33-34). This act of declaration takes place through faith in Christ and not as a result of human works or effort (Eph. 2:8-9). Through justification, a person is made to be in right standing before God, changing what was once an estranged and hostile relationship to one of adoption into the family of God.

1 Justification is the moment you are declared righteous before God (Rom. 5:1; 8:33-34).

Justification happens instantaneously. You don't have to wait to be justified. When you are in Christ, you are as justified as you'll ever be.

- ▶ *How does it feel to know that from the moment you placed your faith in Christ, you were cleansed of all sin—past, present, and future?*

Read Romans 5:1.

- ▶ *Why is faith the only thing that will lead to our being justified in Christ?*

The justification of the Holy Spirit is the action that literally leaves you completely, legally, free from sin and Satan's grip on you. After you are justified, you are Christ's forever.

- ▶ *Why would this verse state that it's our justification that leads to peace with God?*

Read Romans 8:33-34.

Because of our justification in Christ, not only is Satan stripped of his claim on us, but we are also conquerors over sin and death.

2 Justification takes place through faith in Christ, not as a result of human works or effort (Eph. 2:8-9).

Option: Offer a substantial prize to any student able to throw a ball at 70 miles per hour. Hopefully, some sporty students will take you up on the offer. Next, give the student a wiffle ball. Allow three opportunities to throw the ball 70 miles per hour. Regardless of how good an athlete that person may be, the reality is that throwing a wiffle ball at 70 miles per hour is impossible.

Explain to students that regardless of your personal kindness, goodness, or personal piety, trying to earn one's salvation through works and not faith alone is like trying to earn the substantial prize by throwing a wiffle ball 70 miles per hour—it just won't work.

Read Ephesians 2:8-9.

- ▶ *According to this verse, what is the main reason our justification is not a result of works?*

- ▶ *If people could earn their own salvation from God, what might it give them a right to do?*

Our justification is a gift from God. It prevents us from thinking we can earn it or being in the driver's seat of our own salvation.

- ▶ *What are some specific ways we are tempted to try to earn our own salvation?*

3 You are adopted into the family of God when you are justified (Rom. 3:23-24; Gal. 3:26).

Read Romans 3:23-24 and Galatians 3:26.

Once you have been justified you are as much a son or daughter of King Jesus as any one else. At the moment of your justification, you are adopted into the kingdom of Christ.

- ▶ *What images come to mind when you think of being adopted by God?*

Justification is a permanent aspect of your life. You never have to wonder if your sin can separate you from it. While justification is permanent, it also should be accompanied by good fruits on behalf of the person who is justified.

- ▶ *Why is it amazing to know your justification is permanent?*
- ▶ *How does your justification being permanent affect how you live your life in Christ?*

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *Does your life reflect that you're declared justified by the King of kings?*
- ▶ *Are you living a life of gratitude for your justification? If not, how can you start?*

Challenge students to know justification is permanent, real, and through faith alone for salvation.