

Justified by Faith



Collegiate Quarterly

Teacher's Guide

Surveying the Source

Rom. 3:19–28.

Plotting the Course

The students will:

- ▶ Contemplate what it means to be a sinner saved by grace.
- ▶ Appreciate God's unselfish gift of

His only Son.

- ▶ Evaluate what Scripture means to live by faith alone.

Preparing to Lead

Regardless of the past, “if you take even one step toward Him [the Savior] in repentance, He will hasten to enfold you in His arms of infinite love.”*

Like Paul, we can live knowing that our past is wiped clean by the blood of Jesus Christ. “Out of sheer generosity He got

us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where He always wanted us to be. And He did it by means of Jesus Christ” (Rom. 3:24, *The Message*). All we have to do is to take one step toward His open arms. He has already done the rest.

Getting Started

A. Share a time when what you were required to do—or where you were asked to go—necessitated having faith in someone else.

B. Name one rule in your life that has kept you safe or one rule that seems impossible for you to keep.

Delving Into the Word

A. Have your class members imagine finding themselves in the following scenario:

You are a member of a church committee whose task it is to prevent a church split over theological differences of opinion. Some members feel the church is becoming more like the world and needs more emphasis on the importance of keeping all of the Bible's rules.

Others say they can never measure up to all the rules and point out that the Bible says we live by grace alone.

In what way, and with what Scriptures

from our lesson, will your committee attempt to avert a split?

B. Have your class members imagine finding themselves in the following scenario:

On an Internet social networking site you have reconnected with several classmates who attended the same Christian school that you attended.

You are amazed to find that some feel so beaten up by legalism that they want nothing to do with organized religion. They just want to be friends and ask you not to talk to them about what Christ did

Materials

cloth with dark food stain, Bibles of various translations, paper and pencils, bleach in a glass dish

or is doing for you. How could Paul's words in Romans 3:19–28 assist you in

dealing with these friends?

Discussing the Ideas

1. Many church members during Paul's day, felt that circumcision was a sign of being part of God's chosen people. What signs of being part of God's chosen people have you observed in your fellowship with Christians today?

2. In your experience, is it easier to have genuine faith during a time of personal crises or when things are going well? Why do you answer the way you do?

3. The apostle Paul had to preach and minister to individuals who, because of their cultural orientation, had opposing ideas. How is Paul's circumstance the same or different from the minister of your congregation?

4. How would you answer someone

who asked you this question: "Will people who are very religious and totally sincere but who are not Christians be saved?"

5. Is it easier to feel saved by grace as a liberal Christian or as a conservative Christian? Explain your answer.

6. What does it mean to you to be in the world but not of the world (John 17:16, 17)?

7. In the record books of heaven, do good works count for anything? Support your answer.

8. When you consider the number of generations alive today, does one generation have more difficulty accepting the fact that we are saved by faith alone? Explain your position.

Closing the Activity

Say: "This week's lesson challenges us to reflect on the fact that we are all sinners."

Now place a food stain on a cloth to use as an example of our sinful nature. Use a glass bowl of bleach as an example of Christ's righteousness.

Dip the stain into the bleach so the class can see the stain disappear.

Say: "If we shift our focus from what we do to what God has done for us, our faith in His righteousness is strengthened."

Pass out the reproducible activity to either do in class if time allows, or for the students to take home with them to do later.

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**Christ's Object Lessons, p. 206.*

Directions: Review the texts in this week's lesson. Place each one you review on the side of the scale that best indicates who is doing the action spoken of in the text. Is it God? Or is it you?

What God does for us

What we do to respond to what God has done for us

