



## Todd White

**Focus** You can't get to God through good works. Jesus is the only way to the Father. Through Christ, we are made perfectly righteous before God—nothing lacking. God desires to cast out all fear in our lives through His perfect love.

**Fun** What is something you've done that was out of your comfort zone? Was it skydiving, going to a foreign country, or eating strange food? Share about a time you intentionally did something out of your comfort zone.

**Review** Key Scripture: 2 Corinthians 11:2–4

**1. Before Jesus.**

Todd White was addicted to pornography by age 8, addicted to drugs by age 11, and lied and manipulated his way through life. His parents divorced, and he later lived in a children's home. His life was out of control—not even the Marines could help him. After becoming a father, he still could not get his life together. He knew nothing about Jesus.

**2. Meeting Jesus.**

After a drug binge one night, his girlfriend took their daughter and left him. Todd was going to end his life, but he stopped by a church first and talked with a pastor. That's where he met Jesus. Todd discovered Christ living in us is the hope of glory.

**3. Jesus in us.**

We are righteous to God through Christ, and Christ shown through us is God's glory manifested. The cross is the revelation of our value. None of us chose God first, because He chose us first. You will be bold and unafraid when you know you've been forgiven. Jesus takes our "junk" and makes us new.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** One of the best ways to bring your group together is to do an outreach project together. As you discuss the ideas from this week's message, take the time to consider what your group might be able to do together to bring the love of Jesus to places out of your normal comfort zone.

## Discuss

1. What is one thing about your life that you are the most open to talk about or share with others? Why?
2. Todd White said, "Jesus will take away all your junk and you will be in love with Jesus." What did you feel or think about when he said this?
3. Todd said only the blood of Jesus can wash our minds. What do you think he meant by this? Do you agree or disagree, and why?
4. When was the first time you heard about Jesus? What was that like? How do you think we get to God?
5. What does it mean to completely surrender your life to Christ?
6. Like Todd, have you completely surrendered your life to Jesus? If not, what do you think is holding you back? Whether it's for the first time or you just want to make more room for Jesus in your life, take a moment to pray.
7. Take time as a group to pray the sinner's prayer. Ask everyone, if they are comfortable, to repeat after you as you pray. This prayer may symbolize a first-time commitment or a rededication of their lives. Give those who want to make a public declaration the opportunity to do so, or ask them to talk to you after group.

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- Without Jesus, life is a mess.
- Jesus wants to take our mess.
- Jesus gives us hope and a relationship with God.

## Prayer

Jesus, thank You for being willing to reach into our worlds to show us how much You love us. Thank You that You chose us first and that we are completely loved and accepted through Christ. The cross completely took away our sin and revealed the Father's great love for us. Help us to receive it today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** The most effective way for your group to grow is for you (and group members) to personally invite others. Use weekend services to look for people to invite to your small group. Sometimes the only thing keeping a person from experiencing the joy of relational community is a simple invitation.