



Amazing Righteousness

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Focus

When we believe in Jesus, sin is removed from our account and righteousness is deposited. Jesus is perfect, yet He died for our sins so we could be in right standing with God.

Fun

Would you rather vacation at the beach or in the mountains? Why?

Review

Key Scripture: Romans 4:1–5; James 2:10; John 6:28–29

Righteousness

Righteousness is right standing with God. His standard is perfection even though we have all sinned. Jesus did all the right things. When we receive Jesus, we receive the amazing gift of righteousness. We want to do righteous things even though we don't always do the *right* things. But the blood of Jesus puts us in right standing with God. Righteousness is dependent on our position with Jesus rather than on our performance.

An Unearned Gift

Good works aren't accounted for by grace. God owes no man. He deposits righteousness into our account when we believe in His Son. God came neither to condemn nor judge; He came to bless Abraham. He deposited righteousness into Abraham's account even after he sinned. He does the same for us.

Belief

Our work is to believe in Jesus. The sins of the whole world were put into His account, which is why He was condemned to death. The blood of Jesus erased our sins completely. When we believed, His gift of righteousness was put into our account.

Group Dynamics Idea

Plan to attend a weekend service or Gateway event as a group. Worshipping together bonds friendship.

Discuss

1. We are amazed by God's grace when we accept Jesus. What are some ways grace is sustaining your walk with God?
2. How can grace continue to be amazing in your relationship with God? What areas of your life can change by understanding grace?
3. What is "the work of God" that Jesus mentions in John 6:29? Why is our own righteousness like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6)?
4. Share about a time when righteousness enabled you to do good works.
5. How have your thoughts changed since you understood that God came to bless you and not condemn you?
6. What new insight did you receive by understanding God's grace?

Take Home

We receive God's gift of righteousness when we believe Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Jesus' perfect righteousness keeps us in right standing with God. When we understand that God saved us *for* good works—not *by* good works—we're empowered to do the right things. We can be amazed by His grace daily as we live in His righteousness.

Pray

Father, thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sin on the cross. We believe in the resurrection and righteousness of Your Son. Lord, we give You complete control so we can follow You and live righteously through You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip

Encourage your members to keep a personal prayer journal. Share the specifics of how to date the entries of answered prayer and write about new revelation.