

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week April 6, 2014

**This Week's Focus:** Jesus Our Reconciler and Justifier

**This Week's Text:** 1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5:1

**Justification:** *The act of God whereby He declares the believing sinner righteous, forgiven, and in a right relationship with God on the basis of Christ's finished work on the cross.*

*"When God justifies sinners, he is not declaring bad people to be good, or saying that they are not sinners after all. He is pronouncing them legally righteous, free from any liability to the broken law, because he himself in his Son has born the penalty of their law-breaking." John Stott*

**Related Texts:** Romans 3:21–26, 5:8–19; 2 Corinthians 5:21; James 2:10; 1 Peter 1:15; Luke 15:11–32

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- In what ways do the multiple aspects of the atonement affect our worship?
- Examine and reflect on some the characteristics of God: Eternal, Holy, Unchanging, Infinite, Love, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient, Righteous, Sovereign, True. What do these different attributes of God tell us about Him? What do these attributes tell us about ourselves?
- What is God's requirement in order for one to be declared righteous?
  - Can we in and of ourselves meet this requirement? Reference Romans 3:9–20.
- Luke 15:11 – 32 tells of 2 brothers who both end up failing, one in rebellion, the other in righteousness. Read the passage. Which brother do you relate with?
  - How do both rebellion and righteousness reveal to us our need for Christ?
- What does God say about our righteous deeds? Do we have any right to take pride in our moral actions and deeds? Where do we find our true identity and self-worth?
- What does imputed mean? Reference Romans 5:12-21.
  - What has Adam imputed to us? Does this make us any less responsible for our actions?
  - What has Christ imputed to us? How is this freeing? Is there any possible thing we can do make ourselves righteous?

- How is God still just in declaring sinners like us righteous through the blood of Jesus?
- What does it mean to be reconciled?
  - Reconciliation is only needed when what has happened first? How does that apply to our relationship with God? Reference Ephesians 2:13.
- How is reconciliation with God impossible without justification through the blood of Christ?
- How does a proper and biblical understanding of justification and reconciliation help us when sharing our faith with others?

### **Gospel Celebration:**

- Jesus Christ has brought us who were once far off from God, near through his blood! We have been reconciled!
- We do not need to complete a laundry list of good deeds to gain God's favor; Christ has done the work for us on the cross! Our good works should flow joyfully from that truth!

### **Prayer Focus:**

- Repent of any rebellion or self-righteousness.
- Give thanks for the atoning work of Christ.
- Pray for opportunities to share the good news of justification and reconciliation with others.

**Next Week's Text:** Jesus Our Expiation & Propitiation