
Life Group Leaders' Guide: The Righteousness of God in Christ

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by thanking God for bringing your group together and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion about building godly homes and belonging.

Worship Song Suggestions (10 minutes)

"Who You Say I Am" – Hillsong Worship

"Living Hope" – Phil Wickham

"No Longer Slaves" – Bethel Music

"This Is Amazing Grace" – Phil Wickham

Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when you had to trust someone else's perspective over your own (like the suspension bridge story). What made it difficult? What was the outcome?

Key Scripture Passages

"God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." — 2 Corinthians 5:21

Key Takeaways (5 minutes)

1. God Does Not Count Your Sins Against You

Your righteousness is based on Christ's performance, not yours.

2. True Freedom Comes From Believing What God Says About You

You won't experience transformation until you believe you're righteous in Christ.

3. Righteousness Produces Peace, Satisfaction, and a Clear Conscience

These are the fruits of truly believing you're made right with God.

4. Your Life Is Meant To Be a Bridge

You've been given the ministry of reconciliation to lead others back to God.

5. Humility, Not Pride, Flows From True Righteousness

Saying "I am the righteousness of God in Christ" is the most humble statement a believer can make.

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Understanding Righteousness (15–20 Minutes)

1. The Hardest Truth to Believe

- The pastor said believing "God loves you deeply" is harder than believing in miracles like the parting of the Red Sea. Why do you think this is true for many Christians?
- What voices in your life make it difficult to believe God's love and acceptance of you?

2. Whose Voice Are You Listening To?

- In Genesis 3, God asked Adam, "Who told you you were naked?" What does this question reveal about shame versus God's voice?
- What are some "voices" (internal or external) that speak shame, guilt, or unworthiness into your life?

Part 2: Living in Righteousness (15–20 Minutes)

3. Parole Officer vs. Good Judge

- How does viewing God as a "parole officer" versus a "good judge and father" change the way you approach Him?
- In what areas of your life do you still treat God like a parole officer waiting for you to mess up?

4. The Old is Gone, The New Has Come

- **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17** together. Why is it so difficult to believe "the old is gone" when we still struggle with old patterns?
- Share an example of how your desires changed after coming to Christ. What does this reveal about the new heart God gave you?

5. Striving vs. Resting

- The sermon emphasized that righteousness is received, not earned. Where in your spiritual life are you still "striving" to earn God's approval?
- What would it look like for you to rest in the finished work of Christ this week?

Part 3: the Ministry of Reconciliation (15–20 Minutes)

6. Your Life is a Bridge

- What "bridge" has God given you (workplace, hobby, community, relationship) where you can bring the gospel?
- What fears or obstacles keep you from building bridges to share what you've received in Christ?

7. Seeing People Through Resurrection Eyes

- How does viewing people as "potential resurrections" rather than by their current state change how you interact with them?
 - Who in your life needs to see you demonstrate the love and righteousness of Christ?
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Practical Applications (10 minutes)

Group Challenge

- Share with one person this week about the transformation Christ has brought to your life (building a bridge).
- Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21 together as a group.

Personal Reflection (Choose 1–2)

- Declare "I am the righteousness of God in Christ" 60 times this week. Journal about how it feels and any shifts in your thinking.
- Identify one area where shame or guilt has been your primary motivator. Ask God to replace it with His love as your motivation.
- Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal whose voice you've been listening to instead of His.

Accountability Question For Next Week

- "In what ways did you experience peace with God this week by believing in your righteousness in Christ?"
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Closing Activity & Prayer Time (10 minutes)

- Pray for group members to truly believe they are righteous in God's eyes
 - Pray against voices of shame and condemnation
 - Pray for boldness to build bridges and share the gospel
 - Pray for clear consciences and freedom from striving
 - Thank God for the finished work of Christ on the cross
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Additional Resources

Recommended Reading:

- Romans 3–5 (Paul's teaching on righteousness by faith)
 - Galatians 2:20 ("I have been crucified with Christ...")
 - 1 John 3:1–3 (God's love for His children)
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Leader Notes

- This topic can bring up deep emotions and resistance. Create a safe space for honesty.
- Be prepared for people to struggle with accepting their righteousness; this is normal.
- Emphasize grace throughout the discussion; avoid letting it become legalistic.
- Share your own journey of learning to believe you're righteous in Christ.

Additional Discussion Questions to Choose From

How does the story of Adam and Eve hiding in the garden reveal the difference between God's voice and the voice of shame in our own lives?

In what ways do we rely on our own strength, influence, or gifts rather than trusting in God's power working through us?

What does it mean practically to view people not from a worldly point of view but as potential resurrections waiting to happen?

Why is believing that God deeply loves us often harder than believing in miracles like the parting of the Red Sea or the resurrection?

How does understanding that God does not count our sins against us change the way we approach Him in prayer and worship?

What is the difference between being compelled by Christ's love versus being motivated by guilt or shame, and how does this affect our spiritual growth?

If righteousness in Christ is a free gift and not earned by our works, why do so many Christians still struggle with striving and performance-based faith?

How would your daily life change if you truly believed and internalized that you are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus?

What does it mean to have a clear conscience before God, and how does this impact our ability to live in freedom and peace?

Where in your life has God been calling you to build a bridge of reconciliation, and what is holding you back from stepping out in faith?

5-Day Devotional: Living in the Righteousness of Christ

Reflection Questions for the Week:

- Whose voice am I listening to most — God's or others?
 - Do I really believe God loves and enjoys me right now?
 - Where do I still live like my "old self" instead of a new creation?
 - Where has God placed me as a bridge to someone who needs Him?
 - Do I truly accept that I am the righteousness of God in Christ?
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Day 1: Listening to the Father's Voice

Reading: Genesis 3:1–13

Devotional:

In the garden, Adam and Eve's first response after sin was to hide. But notice God's question: "Who told you that you were naked?" They were not hiding because of disobedience alone; they were hiding because they listened to a voice of shame rather than the voice of their Father.

Today, whose voice are you listening to? The enemy whispers condemnation, but your Father speaks identity and love. Before you make decisions or judge yourself, pause and ask, "Is this God's voice or shame's voice?" God has never looked at you with disappointment when you come to Him honestly. He is asking you today, "Where are you?" not to condemn, but to restore fellowship. Come out of hiding.

Day 2: The Scandal of God's Love

Reading: Romans 5:6–11

Devotional:

God loves you deeply, personally, and unconditionally. This is one of the most difficult truths for many believers to fully receive. We can believe Moses parted the Red Sea. We accept that Jesus rose from the dead. But do we truly believe God cherishes us?

This passage declares that while we were still sinners, not after we cleaned up, Christ died for us. His love is not earned by your performance or lost by your failure. It is scandalous grace. Today, stop trying to prove yourself worthy of God's love. You cannot earn what is already freely given. Instead, let this truth wash over you: before the foundation of the world, God chose you. That is not abstract theology. That is your reality. Believe it.

Day 3: The Exchange—His Sin for Your Righteousness

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14–21

Devotional:

Verse 21 contains the heart of the gospel: “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” Jesus did not just forgive your sin. He became your sin and took it to death with Him. In exchange, you received His righteousness. This is not merely positional theology; it is transformational reality.

You are righteous right now, not because of what you have done, but because of what Christ has done. Stop measuring yourself by your performance. God does not count your sins against you. When He looks at you, He sees Jesus. This should humble you to your core and free you completely. You are not trying to become righteous; you already are.

Day 4: Compelled by Love, Not Conviction

Reading: Romans 8:1–17

Devotional:

God is not your parole officer waiting for you to mess up. He is a Father who compels you with love. Guilt and shame are powerful motivators, but they lead to death. Love leads to life. When you truly grasp that there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus, everything changes. You are no longer driven by fear of punishment but drawn by the beauty of relationship.

The Holy Spirit does not convict you like a criminal. He compels you like a beloved child. Today, examine your spiritual motivation. Are you serving God out of obligation and fear, or are you responding to His overwhelming love? True transformation happens when love, not guilt, becomes your fuel.

Day 5: Your Life as a Bridge

Reading: Matthew 5:13–16

Devotional:

You've been reconciled to God—now you carry the ministry of reconciliation to others. Your life is meant to be a bridge. Not a bridge built on your perfection, but one built on the good news you've received. You don't need to have it all together to share Christ. You simply need to know you're loved and made righteous, then invite others into that same freedom.

Where has God placed you? Your workplace, neighborhood, family, creative space—these are your mission fields. People are watching to see if this Jesus thing is real. When they see someone living in peace, free from striving, satisfied in God's love, they'll want what you have. Build bridges today. Cross them with confidence. You carry good news.