



Were: Week 3 — “Justified”

CONNECT: Where are you at with your Christmas shopping? Have you already checked everyone off your list? Or do you thrive under the last-minute pressure?

GROW:

1. **Read Romans 3:9-12, 20, and 23.** All of us are lawbreakers. The word “law” is used over 600 times in the Bible. How does the law show us how sinful we are? How have you experienced each of these consequences of sin personally?
 - a. Sin always leads to *confusion*: “Why did I do that? Why did I say that?”
 - b. Sin always leads to *captivity*: “I feel trapped, I feel stuck, there’s no way to get out”
 - c. Sin always leads to *condemnation*: “I’ve crossed too many lines, I’m damaged goods, there’s no hope for me”
2. **Read Romans 3:24-25.** The biblical doctrine of justification is God’s choice to eternally love us and free us from the punishment we deserve as lawbreakers. How does God declare us to be righteous? What does *justification through faith* mean?
3. **Read Romans 5:1-2.** Sin creates two problems: the legal problem of guilt *and* it makes us sinful, which affects our very nature. How does Jesus, as one part Judge and one part Physician, solve these problems?
4. There are a lot of problems in the world, but THE problem is sin. Therefore THE solution is Jesus. What happens when we treat the symptoms of sin and not the sickness? How do God’s truth and grace help to reveal and fix the problem?
5. **Read Ezekiel 33:11.** God is the author of life, the creator of life, the giver of life, the sustainer of life, and the redeemer of life. God hates death more than any of us ever will. Does God ever send anyone to Hell? What do we know about His nature?
6. **Read 1 Corinthians 6:11.** *You were washed. You were sanctified. You were justified.* How has this teaching series helped you better understand salvation? How will that help you take this message to others?

PRAY: Father, we are aware of our sinful choices and the appetites for sin that we have developed. So we say we’re sorry, but we also say thank you for the forgiveness we have in Jesus. We know the truth that Jesus paid for everything. Remind us of your love and grace. Help us share that with other people.

NEXT: Ask God who He’d like you to invite to our Christmas services. Even if it messes with holiday traditions or family dinners, who could you share the love of Jesus with? Invite God to bring someone to mind, and make the ask in these next few weeks.