

WARM-UP:

Choose one or two questions:

- What is the naughtiest thing you did as a kid?
- Tell us about a time when you received or offered forgiveness.
- How has God's forgiveness changed your life?
- Last week we spoke about understanding God's grace. How have you applied what we spoke about in the last week?

WORD:

What does the Bible say?

Today we'll talk about one need that all of us have: the need to be FORGIVEN! Let's read ROMANS 3: 21-26 (NLT) together:

²¹ But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

Romans 3:21-26 is the solution. It's where the answer to the deepest need of our heart and the deepest need of this world is found. The way people are set right with God is by the blood of Jesus Christ. The Word of God makes it clear that we cannot be justified any other way.

- What do you think it means that God has made us 'right in his sight'?
- According to the Apostle Paul, how are we made right in God's sight?
- How does this compare to what other religions and worldviews teach about how to be seen as a 'good' person?

- Before you were a Christian did you see yourself as a sinner? What helped you to understand that you were in need of God's forgiveness?
- In your own words, how would you explain the Gospel (Good News) and God's gift of forgiveness?

TIP: Use The 4 Points below and the videos at <u>https://thefour.com/en/#1</u> to help you to share the gospel more effectively.









God loves me

I live apart from God

Jesus died for me

I need to decide to live for God

APPLICATION:

What will we do?

- Do you understand and accept God's forgiveness and the righteousness he offers you? How could you grow in this area?
- Who could you share the gospel (of God's forgiveness) with this week? How could you use your story of receiving God's forgiveness to share the gospel simply and clearly?

PRAY:

- Let's thank God for forgiving us of all of our sins and for making us right in his sight!
- Let's pray for one another that we would have a deeper revelation of God's forgiveness and His gift of being right with Him.
- Let's ask God for opportunities to share the gospel with specific people in our life.
- Let's ask God to give us the courage and motivation we need to do so.