

Session 3: Salvation.

What's so amazing about grace?

ROMANS 3.21-4.25

KEY VERSE:

'All are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.'

ROMANS 3.24 (NIV)

Part I: Justified by faith

How does the death of Jesus put us right with God?



THE SLAVE MARKET (redemption)

'... all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.'

ROMANS 3.24 (NIV)



THE TEMPLE (sacrifice)

'God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood - to be received by faith.'

ROMANS 3.25 (NIV)



LAW COURT (justice)

'[God] did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.'

ROMANS 3.26 (NIV)



Discussion time

READ ROMANS 3.21–26

1. If you had to post a one-minute video on social media explaining how guilty people can be put right with God, what might you say?
2. Review each of the three metaphors Paul uses:
 1. The slave-market (verse 24)
 2. The temple sacrifice (verse 25)
 3. The law court (verse 26)

How does each picture help us appreciate what Christ accomplished for us? Which feels most significant for you right now?

3. Do you tend to focus more on God's standard of justice or his work to justify us? How does forgetting one or the other affect our view of God, ourselves and others?

NOTES:

**God's
Riches
At
Christ's
Expense**

Part II: Living by faith

Be grateful not boastful

'If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God.'

ROMANS 4.2 (NIV)

Be adventurous not cautious

'... follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had ...'

ROMANS 4.12 (NIV)

Having been justified by faith, we can step out in faith

Abraham was 'fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.'

ROMANS 4.21 (NIV)



Part II: Reflection time

READ ROMANS 4.18–25

How does Abraham's example inspire us? Consider verse 18: 'Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed ...' What past disappointments hold us back? What might it mean for us to believe God and step out in faith?



PRAYER

Pray that we would live grateful and adventurous lives in response to God's grace.

NOTES:



READING ROMANS:

Before the next session, read the following passages in Romans:

- READING 1:
Romans 5.1–5
- READING 2:
Romans 5.6–8
- READING 3:
Romans 5.9–11
- READING 4:
Romans 5.12–17
- READING 5:
Romans 5.18–21



READING SUGGESTIONS:

- Chapter 3 of
Romans: A Letter That Makes Sense of Life
by Andrew Ollerton