

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THREE FACTS ABOUT JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

Romans 4:1-25

Not Ashamed (Romans) — Week 10

ICEBREAKER: What brings a tear to your eye?

OVERVIEW: The theme of Romans is the gospel (Rm 1:16-17). In Romans 1:18-3:20, Paul explains man's desperate need for salvation from sin. Finally, in Romans 3:21-31 Paul gets to the good news and explains God's way for us to get right with Him — justification by faith. In Romans 4 Paul elaborates on some of the implications of this great doctrine.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Describe the doctrine of justification by faith.
3. Can a Christian lose their justification? Explain.
4. What should you do if you don't feel justified?
5. Read Ephesians 2:11-22 and answer the following questions.
 - a) What is the plight of Gentiles apart from Christ?
 - b) What has Christ done for Gentile believers?

c) What is the new relationship between believing Jews and believing Gentiles?

6. For the following questions, refer to Sunday's sermon and Romans 4:1-25. How did Paul prove that justification by faith is not new (see 4:1-8)?
7. Read Romans 4:17-22. How did Abraham set a good example of saving faith?
8. In Romans 4:9-12, Paul pointed out that Abraham was justified before he was circumcised. Why does this matter?
9. Read Romans 4:16. What "promise" is Paul referring to (see 4:13)? Who are the descendants of Abraham? Who are the heirs to the promise made to Abraham?
10. Read Romans 4:25. What does it mean that Jesus was raised for our justification?

The Last Word: "[Justification is] God's once for all act of pardoning and accepting us." J.I. Packer