

STUDY GUIDE

AHA MOMENTS 08.04.2019

[start with prayer]

Missions Prayer Focus this week:
Dan Marshall—Cleveland Service Mission

[set up]

Share a story of a time when you were confident that you were going the right way to a destination and then ended up in the wrong place.

How is that similar to our spiritual journey, and to saving faith in Jesus Christ?

[digging deeper]

Read Luke 18:9-14.

What was the purpose of Jesus teaching this parable? (see v. 9)

What are 2-3 contrasts that you see between the Pharisee and the tax collector in this parable?

Pharisee	Tax Collector

Now apply those observations to what we see in our own lives:

I am like the Pharisee when I...	I am like the Tax Collector when I...

What was the outcome from this story Jesus told? Why would that have been a surprise to the audience listening to the teaching?

Notice that Jesus said the tax collector went home “Justified.” What does that mean?

Read the following article:

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/what-are-justification-and-sanctification/>

(Print out in advance if you can.)

Where do you see the relationship between what Jesus says in the passage and what was mentioned in the article?

(over)

To really lock in this understanding of justification, read each of the following verses (you can divide them up in your LifeGroup if that is more efficient or effective).

Romans 5:1 Romans 3:28 Romans 5:9-11 Romans 10:3
2 Corinthians 5:21 Galatians 2:16 Ephesians 2:8-10 Titus 3:4-7

Taking what you just learned, if you were to sit down with someone who does not understand biblical justification, how would you explain it? Write a summary sentence here:

Pair up for 5 minutes with someone in your LifeGroup. Take turns explaining what justification means and how we are justified before God.

Like following incomplete or poor directions, or entering a wrong address into a GPS, many people are ultimately trusting in themselves to be made right with God through religious participation or good works. They have some degree of confidence that this will work out for them when it comes to forgiveness and to salvation and heaven, but they will not end up at the destination they hoped for.

We are “re-routed” by the Gospel of Christ. Believing and trusting in Jesus for our justification, forgiveness, and heaven.

Have you ever had a time in your life when you believed that you had to rely on your own good works and religious behaviors to be made right with God? When and how did that change for you? If time allows, have a couple people share their answers.

[living it out]

One action step I can take to live more like the tax collector and less like the pharisee is to:

In light of what you just learned and as you ready yourself to spend some time praying, what is one:

- Prayer of praise to God you can offer based on His character?
- Prayer of gratitude you can offer for what He has done?
- Prayer of confession/repentance you need to make due to any conviction from this time?
- Prayer of request you can ask as you live out what God has revealed to you during this time?

* If you have not ever accepted Christ as your Savior, talk to your LifeGroup leader right now about how you can become a follower of Christ. Be “re-routed.” Through repentance and faith in Christ you too can be justified before God, saved, and have the assurance of forgiveness and heaven.