

CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

May 19, 2019

“CITY OF GOD” - Week 2

For more information or to join a Growth Group, please visit our Growth Group page online at cbclife.org/groups or call the church office at 408.288.4115.

QUICK REVIEW

1. Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
2. What is one thing from Sunday’s message you are likely to remember two weeks from now?

MY STORY

1. Pastor Jeff talked about us being either older brothers or younger brothers and the Gospel is about the God who comes after us, saves us, and welcomes us despite our sin. Looking back at your life, would you consider your past and present more of a younger brother or older brother?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read aloud Luke 18:9–14 and then work through the questions below.

1. Look at what the Pharisee says about himself in verses 11 and 12. Is the Pharisee a hypocrite? Discuss.
2. What does the Pharisee understand righteousness to be and how to achieve it?

DIGGING DEEPER (cont.)

3. The tax collector does not actually say what you see in the English translation of verse 13, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” He uses a definite article in the Greek. He says, “God, have mercy on me, the sinner.” What can we learn about repentance from the attitude of the tax collector? [Your Response]

4. Pastor and author John Stott writes, ‘Justification’ is a legal term, borrowed from the law courts. It is the exact opposite of ‘condemnation’. ‘To condemn’ is to declare somebody guilty; ‘to justify’ is to declare him ... righteous. In the Bible it refers to God’s act of unmerited favor by which He puts a sinner right with Himself, not only pardoning or acquitting him, but accepting him and treating him as righteous.¹ Jesus says the tax collector went home “justified” before God. Why? What does this passage teach us about justification?

TAKING IT HOME

1. What do you think it means “to repent not only of our bad things, but also for the reason we did our good things”?

2. “If I gave you a test on justification by grace alone through faith alone through the substitutionary work of Christ alone, you’d probably get 100 percent.” If we’re justified by grace alone, not by our good works or our moral efforts or anything we can do, what motivates us to live an obedient, repentant life?

3. If Jesus is our true elder brother, how does it change the way we live on a daily basis?