



BIG IDEA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. Do NOT feel like you have to use every question. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

07.10/11.10 // You Don't Have What it Takes: You Aren't Good Enough.

Big iDEA: *When I realize that God accepts me through Christ, I'm no longer living FOR His approval, but FROM His approval.*

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: What would you say are some of your skills or talents? It's OK to help each other out by pointing out someone else's skills and talents.

Option 2: What is one of the best gifts you ever received?

// Questions for Discussion _____

1. Galatians 2: 19 (NLT)

For when I tried to keep the law, it condemned me. So I died to the law—I stopped trying to meet all its requirements—so that I might live for God.

Why do we sometimes feel like we need to earn God's approval?

What are some things you've seen people do in order to try and earn God's approval?

2. Hebrews 9: 15 (The Message)

Through the Spirit, Christ offered himself as an unblemished sacrifice, freeing us from all those dead-end efforts to make ourselves respectable, so that we can live all out for God.

Are there areas in your life where you have been trying to make yourself feel more acceptable to God? What are they?

This verse talks about being set free from having to earn God's love. How does this give you confidence for your daily life?

3. Ephesians 2: 8 - 9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

If salvation is a gift of God and not by our works, what are our responsibilities in salvation?

Why do you think God doesn't want us to boast?

What part does faith play in salvation?

What part does repentance play?

4. Ephesians 2: 10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

In the previous question, it is noted that we are not saved by works.

What do you think is the relationship between not working for our salvation, but yet saying we were created to do good works?

What is meant by us being God's workmanship?

5. Philippians 3: 7 - 9

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

Why do you think Paul noted everything as rubbish?

What kinds of things should we consider as rubbish today?

6. Romans 3: 23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Why has everyone sinned?

How can we prevent Satan from using this against us and giving us a feeling of condemnation?

7. Galatians 1: 15 - 16

But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man,

How has God called you by His grace?

How has Jesus been revealed to you?

8. BiG iDEA: When I realize that God accepts me through Christ, I'm no longer living FOR His approval, but FROM His approval.

What would you say is the performance trap?

What are some ways to avoid this?

What makes us acceptable to God?

// Application _____

Read and commit to memory . Romans 3: 23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Give up trying to win approval by performance and realize that God accepts us as we are.

// Prayer _____

Thank God for His acceptance of who we are and for sacrificing Jesus to save us.

That we would no longer For God's approval, but FROM His approval.

