

## Righteousness Through Christ

### Lesson 2 — Student Guide

**Prepare for class:** Read Romans 3:20-29

#### Lesson Goal

The goal of this lesson is to answer the following question: **How do people receive righteousness?**

#### Think

#### Evaluate

1. Who are the characters in this story?
2. What are the objects in this story?
3. Where did this story happen?
4. When did this story happen?
5. What is the problem?
6. What events occurred in this story?
7. Is the problem solved?

#### Learn

8. What is the main theme of this lesson?
9. What sin does this lesson teach us to confess?
10. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson?
11. What does God teach us to do in this lesson?

#### Lead

12. What would be a good situation in which to share this message?

#### Additional questions

13. The believing Gentiles and Jews of Paul's day thought that by obeying God's law they could earn God's favor. Read verse 20. What does the law really do?
14. Paul explained that no one has obeyed the law perfectly. Read verse 28 to find out how God declares each sinner righteous or justified ("just-as-if-I'd" never sinned.)
15. The Gentiles and Jews needed to learn that they could not earn God's favor, and God used Paul to teach them about righteousness through Jesus Christ. In the 1500s, a man name Martin

Luther also needed to learn these things. Luther was a member of the Roman Catholic Church, the church of his day. He trained to become a monk and then a priest. Throughout his Catholic training, he was taught that it was not enough that Jesus lived, died, and rose to save sinners. Luther was taught that Jesus' work only made salvation available. The sinner still had to combine good works with what Jesus did in order to be saved.

- a. Martin Luther sometimes went without food, stayed outside in the cold with little on, and beat himself. Why do you think he did these things?
  - b. God used a priest to tell Luther to search the Bible for the forgiveness he so wanted, but could not get on his own. Luther searched and searched, and God the Holy Spirit guided and guided! Read one of the passages Luther read—Romans 1:17. How does a person live in righteousness?
16. Read 1 Timothy 2:3-4. What is God's greatest desire?
  17. God loves all people and uses believers to share his saving message. God used Paul to help confused people in Rome and used a priest to help miserable Luther. How does God today help people learn about his love and forgiveness?
  18. Out of thanks to God for making you righteous in his sight, how can you be like Paul to someone?

### **Lesson wrap-up**

**How do people receive righteousness?**