



1. Before taking a break for Christmas, we spent several weeks discussing the Christian's justification by faith. How does the life, death, and resurrection of Christ restore our "legal status" before God? How are we justified?
2. The New Testament teaches that we need more than a right legal standing to enter the Presence of God. We first need to enter the family of God. 1 John 3:1-3 proclaims that God adopts all those who are in Christ. Read and discuss this passage and Galatians 4:1-7. What does it mean to be a child of God?
3. In addition to being *adopted by* God, Christians are also *born of* God (John 3:8; 1 Peter 2:23). What does it mean to be born of God? How do the two images of family form our understanding of our relationship to God? What benefits are reserved for God's children? (Romans 8:12-17)
4. In *The Gospel for Real Life*, Jerry Bridges lists five ways God acts as Father to Christians.
  - a. God provides for us (Philippians 4:19)
  - b. God protects us (Matthew 10:29-31)
  - c. God encourages us (Psalm 10:17)
  - d. God comforts us (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
  - e. God disciplines us (Hebrews 12:10)

How have you experienced God as Father? In what specific ways can you grow to more fully trust God as Father?

5. According to Hebrews 10:19-25, we can enter God's presence with confidence and assurance because of our status as His children. What are the daily implications of this truth?

THE  
GOSPEL  
FOR REAL LIFE