

Small Group Discussion Guide — April 26, 2026

- Series: The Basics
 - Sermon: Earned vs. Gifted
 - Scripture: Romans 6:22-23 (NLT)
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CONNECT

Have you ever received something that you felt you did not deserve? If so, what was it? How did you feel upon receiving it? Also, what did the giver of the gift say to you if you expressed to them that you felt you didn't deserve it?

FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

Last week we dove into Romans 5:1-8 particularly the first two verses. What is the meaning of the two phrases, 'justified by faith' and 'peace with God?' How should we be living if we fully grasp their respective meanings?

ENGAGE

Romans 6:22 states that we (believers in Jesus) are enslaved to God. In your own words what does that mean? If we are enslaved to God, how then should we live? What results in our lives should that enslavement produce?

All of us have no doubt given someone a gift. What are the two choices a person has when a gift is presented to them? Romans 6:23 discusses God's gift. His gift is not earned. Why do some people accept it and why do some not do so? If we accept God's gift it leads to eternal life. How should having eternal life affect the way you think or behave? How does it actually affect your thinking and behavior?

Kyle stated that Romans 5:8 (justification) leads to Romans 6:22 (sanctification). Read these two verses aloud and then explain not only what they mean, but how and why 5:8 leads to 6:22. Share a few examples of the results of the sanctification process in your own life.

APPLY

Kyle informed us that Romans 6 reminds us that there is no such thing as spiritual neutrality. Every person is serving something. What's your master? What's your identity wrapped up in? What's on your pedestal? What tensions do these questions and your responses create for you? As a result of what you read in Romans 6:22-23, and your responses to these questions here, what changes do you need to make in your life?

PRAYER

Dear God, our true 'wage,' our true 'earning,' is death due to our sin. That is what we deserve. But because of your grace you decided to offer us the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Because of your mercy we are not punished or condemned. Because of your grace we are offered an abundant life in you. Help us to truly accept, embrace and understand your magnificent gift so that we may know and grow more deeply in the knowledge and wisdom of Christ. Help and guide us to live for you more fully and to love others as you love us.

GOING DEEPER

Memorize Romans 6:22-23. Dwell on the meaning and implications of these verses and how you should live in light of the following phrases - set free; become slaves; reap holiness; result is eternal life; wages of sin; gift of God.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Romans 6:14, 16; Philippians 2:12-13; Psalms 118:5

QUOTES

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Anything you worship besides God promises much, but delivers worse than nothing. It is slavery: a constant treadmill of seeking to grasp, or keep hold of, something which can never really deliver. - Tim Keller