



SERMON STUDY

GUIDE

Small Group Guide: Titus 3.3-8

Open with Prayer

Discussion Questions:

1. **God's Dramatic Appearances:** The sermon highlights stories like Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3), Elijah on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18), and Isaiah's vision (Isaiah 6). Which of these stories resonates most with you, and why? How do they show that God often appears to "flawed" or unlikely people?
2. **Our Shared Brokenness:** Titus 3.3 describes us as once "foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures." How does this verse relate to your own life story or "personal testimony," and what does it reveal about why God chooses to appear to people like us?
3. **Mercy vs. Grace:** The sermon explains *mercy* as God not giving us the punishment we deserve, and *grace* as giving us blessings we don't deserve. Share an example from your life where you've experienced God's mercy or grace. How does understanding this difference change how you view your relationship with God?
4. **The Trinity in Action:** In Titus 3.5-7, we see the Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit working together in our salvation. How does this "Trinitarian language" deepen your appreciation for how God saves us? What role do you see each part of the Trinity playing in your daily faith?
5. **Justification and Reconciliation:** Justification is described as "just-as-if-I-never-sinned," yet we all have sinned. Reflecting on the sermon's question, "*How can unjust people be reconciled to a holy God?*" what does it mean to you that we're justified by grace through Jesus? How does this address fears of judgment?
6. **Saved From and To:** The sermon emphasizes that God saves us from deserved judgment and to an eternal hope (as in Revelation 21-22, with no more tears, pain, or death). How does this "from and to" perspective give you hope in your current struggles? Share a time when focusing on eternal hope helped you through a tough situation.

7. **Meditating and Applying the Truth:** Titus 3.8 urges us to meditate on these truths and devote ourselves to good works. What practical steps can you take this week to shift from dwelling on problems (like depression or pain) to meditating on salvation and living out good deeds? How can our group support each other in this?

Key Takeaways:

1. **God Appears to the Broken and Unlikely:** Just like God showed up to flawed people such as Moses (a runaway murderer), Elijah (surrounded by godless people), and Isaiah (who felt unworthy), God reaches out to us in our messes. It's not about being perfect—it's about His loving kindness appearing to transform ordinary sinners like you and me (Titus 3.3-4).
2. **Saved by Mercy and Grace, Not Our Works:** We're justified ("just-as-if-I-never-sinned") through Jesus Christ, not because of anything we've done, but by God's mercy (sparing us from deserved punishment) and grace (giving us undeserved blessings). The Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—works together to reconcile us to a holy God, answering the question: How can unjust people like us be made right with Him? (Titus 3.5-7).
3. **From Judgment to Eternal Hope:** God not only saves us from the judgment we deserve but to an incredible eternal life—free from tears, pain, and death, where we'll live forever in His presence (Revelation 21-22). Meditate on this truth, thank Him for Jesus' sacrifice, and live it out through good works and joy (Titus 3.8).

Practical Applications:

1. **Embrace Your Brokenness and Watch for God:** This week, reflect on a personal flaw or past mistake (like Moses' or Isaiah's). Pray daily, asking God to "appear" in your life—perhaps through Scripture, a conversation, or a quiet moment. Journal one way you see His loving kindness showing up, reminding yourself that He chooses the unlikely.
2. **Practice Gratitude for Mercy and Grace:** Set aside 5-10 minutes each day to thank God specifically for His mercy (not punishing you as deserved) and grace (giving you undeserved blessings) through Jesus. Share this with a friend or family member, and look for an opportunity to extend mercy or grace to someone else, like forgiving a wrong or offering unexpected kindness.
3. **Meditate on Eternal Hope and Do Good Works:** Instead of dwelling on daily problems, meditate on Titus 3.8 and Revelation 21-22 by reading them aloud each morning. Then, take one practical step toward "good works," such as helping a neighbor, volunteering, or encouraging someone who's struggling. Track how this shifts your focus to joy and eternal hope.

Close in Prayer: