



### MESSAGE BIG IDEA

The way to knowing God is not by striving and trying harder. It's through knowing and following Jesus.

### DISCUSSION GUIDANCE

Help the group see that God wants to know us and that he's invited us to know him through his son Jesus Christ. He's welcomed us into his family not because we've earned it or because we such moral people, but because through his grace he has brought us into his forgiven family.

In Romans 3, Paul is pointing out that no one can be in a right relationship by trying to be obedient to the law. He quotes from the Old Testament to make his case that this is true. Jew and Gentile (the whole world) are guilty before God. He makes this case because he's setting up the solution to this problem, that through God's Messiah, Jesus, the whole world is brought into a right relationship with him. Jesus is the faithful Messiah and those that now live by faith in him, are joined to him and experience new life in him. We aren't brought into a right relationship with God because we've been perfect, or we've balanced out the scale, or even that we've stopped caring. We are brought into a right relationship with God because Jesus took care of sin on the cross and we are welcomed into his families like any other son or daughter would be welcomed into the family if they would trust in what God has done to provide a way back to him.

Help the group see how we can be in a relationship with God. There were some great suggestions in the video for this week about talking to God like you would any other person and listening to what God has to say. Help people see that God is like a parent and that the way we relate to him is not transactional, but relational. Finally, close out the group through a challenge. We all will continue to know God. Some people in your group might want to decide to trust in Jesus for the first time, while others might want to commit to walking closer with Jesus. Encourage the group to share and then take the appropriate next steps depending on the individuals in the group. Close the group in prayer.