

Arkana Baptist Church

Small Group Discussion Guide For the week of January 24, 2021

1. Take a moment to talk about what you think of when you hear the words “sinner” and “saint.” What connotations do they have outside of the church, in broader society? What does it mean to call someone these words?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. In the message this week we talked about how all of humanity are sinners, but only those who accept Jesus are saints. That means we are different from everyone else. How does that play out in your own life? How are you different from those around you?
3. Can Christians be too different, or overly strange to the world? How so?
4. When people hear us call ourselves saints, or say that we are sinners “saved by grace,” sometimes it might sound to them like we are bragging about being better than they are. Yet, we are actually saying just the opposite. We are not better, but Jesus IS better. In Hebrews 3:1-6 the writer is trying to convince Jews that Jesus is better(greater) than Moses. What are some things in our world that Jesus is better than? How can we explain to other “sinners” that Jesus is better than what they hold dear?
5. Read Romans 3:23-24 and Hebrews 10:14. Talk about what it means to be justified (made right before God), and that we are being sanctified (being made holy). What does it mean that we are already but not yet holy?
6. In light of Philippians 1:6 how is God “completing” the work he began in you? Please be as specific as possible.

Pray this week - Father, give me the humility that comes with knowing I am a sinner. And help me to live like someone who is blameless before you. Yet, I know that I am still learning what it means to walk with you in holiness. Amen.

Weekly Bible Reading- Monday: Ephesians 2:19; Tuesday: Philippians 2:12-13; Wednesday: Colossians 1:21-22; Thursday: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Friday:1 John 1:8-9

For further study:

<https://www.brettmccracken.com/blog/2013/06/27/how-are-christians-set-apart>
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/jesus-is-better/>