

"HIS STORY" PARENT GUIDE

Lesson 4.4: Already, but Not Yet

SCRIPTURE: PHILIPPIANS 3:8-14

SUMMARY

The two important concepts learned in this lesson are justification, and sanctification. These are theological words that describe both how someone becomes a Christian, and how they grow as a Christian. Someone is justified when Jesus' blood forgives them of their sin and they are made right with God, no longer being under the penalty of sin. Justification is a one-time event in the life of a brand new Christian. After someone is justified, the goal of the Christian life is to become like Jesus Christ. Sanctification is the process of growing in Christ by forgetting the old life, and pursuing hard after the new life in Christ. In this way, the work of Christ has been accomplished in Christians, but they have not fully arrived at being like Jesus. Christians will have to wait for heaven to fully realize the goal of the Christian life.



KEY VERSE:

*Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own.
(Philippians 3:12)*

KEY THOUGHT:

In Lesson 4.4 we learned that we are saved from our sins and God declares us righteous. However, becoming more like Jesus is a process.

KEY WORDS:

Justification: God declaring sinners not guilty but righteous on the basis of the death of Jesus as payment for their sin

Sanctification: the process of spiritual growth that occurs as believers give control of their lives to the Holy Spirit

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- Describe how God can declare a person not guilty of their sins even though they have committed them?
- How is sanctification a process and not a one-time thing?
- What is the goal in living the Christian life?
- How should the Christian view the life they used to live before they came to Jesus?
- Paul told Christians in Philippians 3 to work very hard in following Christ. What types of things do you think he had in mind when he said this?
- How come God still accepts us in our relationship with Him even when we mess up and sin?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?
- What are some of the earthly distractions that keep us from following Jesus as hard as we should?
- Brainstorm together: What are some ways that we can work harder as we grow in Christ?