

# Do I Have To?

## The Big Question:

- Do I have to follow the rules?

## Break the Ice:

- **Rules I've Had to Follow**

- Divide participants into groups of three or four.
- Give each group a blank sheet of paper.
- Say: *For some reason people love to make rules. Rules here. Rules there. Rules everywhere. Some rules just seem downright dumb.*
- Listen to the following three actual laws that were in effect at one time. Decide which one has the greatest dumb factor. We'll vote:
  - *You may not eat a doughnut and walk backward on a city street. (Marion, Ohio)*
  - *Throwing a snake at anyone is illegal. (Toledo, Ohio)*
  - *Wire cutters may not be carried in your pocket. (Austin, Texas)*
- Take a vote.
- Next, tell participants their team will compete against the other teams to make the longest list possible in three minutes. The title of the list: **All the Rules We've Had to Follow in Our Lives.**
- Time for three minutes.
- Determine the winner.

## Look at the Book:

- Say:
  - *God's people in the Old Testament had many rules to follow. Listen to a small sample of these rules. (Read scriptures from **They Had To** (attached).*
  - *Many people still struggle with feeling like they need to earn heaven by following the rules. Listen to the following scripture as you think about this. I will read the regular print, and you read the bolded print.*
- Distribute the handout: **Look at the Book** (attached).
- Read the scripture with the group.
- Divide the group into two—a justification group and a sanctification group.
- Each group should be lead by a youth leader.
  - In the justification group, the leader should
    - Distribute the handout: **Justified and Sanctified** (attached);

## Supplies:

- Sheet of paper per group of 3 or 4
- Writing instruments
- Index card per participant
- Large nail per participant
- Life-size wooden cross
- 3 or 4 hammers
- Music to play
- 2 baskets
- Copies:
  - Look at the Book
  - Justified and Sanctified

- Tell the group that they will each be teaching the justification part of the graph and chart to a partner in just a few minutes.
    - Explain the justification part of the graph and the justification part of the chart.
    - Check for understanding and questions.
  - In the sanctification group, the leader should
    - Distribute the handout: **Justified and Sanctified** (attached);
    - Tell the group that they will each be teaching the sanctification part of the graph and chart to a partner in just a few minutes.
    - Explain the sanctification part of the graph and the sanctification part of the chart.
    - Check for understanding and questions.
- Pair participants—one from the justification group with one from the sanctification group.
- Tell the justification partner to teach first; the sanctification partner second.
- Circulate to give needed help to the partner pairs.
- Call partners back to whole group to complete the third Probing exercise all together.
  - Answers:
    - *Dead in transgressions* belongs in **Human Sinfulness**.
    - *In the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus* belongs in **Divine Righteousness**.
    - *By grace you have been saved* belongs by **Justification**
    - *To do good works* belongs by **Sanctification**.

## Interact:

- **The Trade-In**
  - Distribute an index card and a writing instrument to each participant.
  - Say:
    - *It's quite a trade-in Jesus offers—I'll take your sin, he says, and you take the gift of grace.*
    - *Go off by yourself somewhere in this room. I will play some music while you think alone.*
    - *On your index card list the sins that have been bothering you. No one will see this list. This list is between you and God.*
    - *When you are ready, fold your index card to hide your words. Then come up to the cross. Take a nail from the basket and nail your folded card to the cross.*
    - *Then from the other basket, take a note that will tell you about God's grace (attached). Take this note back to your spot, read it, and pray to God.*

## Pray:

- When the time is right, call participants back into the large group.
- Say: *Look at the lesson scripture and listen once again.*
- Read:

*<sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

*<sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

*<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.*

*<sup>10</sup>For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

- Invite participants to thank God in sentence prayers, using the scripture to guide them.
- After the prayer, ask participants to take their cards from the cross and tear them up.