



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Session 2: Mount Sinai

Writing for Insight

John Wesley wrote in a sermon called “The Scripture Way of Salvation” that “justification is another word for pardon.”

- Read **Romans 3:21-24** to the class.
- Distribute a large sheet of paper to each participant. While you read the following slowly (verses 23-24, including all punctuation marks), have participants write down what you are reading to them with their eyes closed. No peeking!

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (NIV¹)

- Have participants open their eyes and look at their writing. (It may be all over the place.) Then have them neatly rewrite the statement below their first attempt, with eyes open.
- Lesson: We are a mess at trying to follow God’s law on our own, and we fall short every time (eyes closed version). But Jesus takes our mess and makes it right—he justifies us—in the sight of God (eyes open version).

Reading Saint Patrick’s Prayer

To get a sense of how God’s grace walks before us—and with us—read together “A Prayer of Saint Patrick,” also known as “The Lorica” or “Saint Patrick’s Breastplate,” as it was a prayer of protection:

A Prayer of Saint Patrick

Christ be with us, Christ before us, Christ behind us,
Christ in us, Christ beneath us, Christ above us,
Christ on our right, Christ on our left,
Christ where we lie, Christ where we sit, Christ where we arise,
Christ in the heart of every one who thinks of us,
Christ in every eye that sees us,
Christ in every ear that hears us.
Salvation is of the Lord,
Salvation is of the Christ,
May your salvation, O Lord, be ever with us.²

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² “A Prayer of Saint Patrick,” Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church, accessed May 14, 2019, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-prayer-of-saint-patrick>. The prayer can be downloaded in Microsoft Word.