

# THE GOSPEL FOR *THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS*



*This method highlights the sufficiency of Jesus' works for salvation and no one else's.*

**1. Story** (*based on Luke 18:9-14*): Two men (or women) left their homes in the morning, went about their day and returned home in the evening. When it came time to go to bed the first man prayed, "God, I drove the speed limit, obeyed all the traffic laws, helped an old lady across the street, gave money to the church and didn't say any cuss words today." The second man prayed, "God, I lied to my co-worker, stole money from my friend, said nothing when my neighbor made fun of my wife and was angry with my kids." The first man proudly looked up to heaven and said, "Amen." The second man would not even look up and said, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

## **2. Explain the Stories Point:**

**Ask:** Which one of these men do you think was justified before God?

**Explain:** Jesus teaches us that it was the second man. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled. And those who humble themselves will be exalted. This story pictures how we are made right with God. It is not through our own good works of righteousness, but it is through God's mercy. The second man received mercy calling out to God while the first man did not looking only to Himself.

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## 3. Explain God's Mercy and Justification:

### **Have them read Titus 3:5-6.**

*"5 not by works of righteousness which we have done,  
but  
according to His mercy He saved us,  
through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,  
6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,"*

**Ask:** How does God save us according to this Scripture verse?

**Answer:** According to His mercy, through the regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Ask:** How does God not save us?

**Answer:** By our own works of righteousness.

**Ask:** Will you trust in Jesus alone to save you or in yourself? There is only one way.

Further Scriptures to know and use: **Romans 3:23-24; 5:1.**

## Outline of Gospel Essentials:

1. Sin or sinful state: Self-righteousness.
2. Jesus: Savior
3. Correct Response: Calling on Jesus' Name for salvation.
4. Salvation Blessings: Justified with God.

Format from Sam Chan, Evangelism in a Skeptical World, 2018. See chapters 2 and 3.