



Session 2 The Messy Middle
week starting April 18, 2021

Believe it or not, the Christian community is messy. No one is perfect and never will be this side of heaven. How do we live in the messiness? What do we do with sin and brokenness? Jesus's invitation is to embrace the mess—and the messy people—and leave the hard work to him.

GETTING STARTED

- The speed limit is a common law to break. What does it feel like to be stopped for speeding?

DISCUSSION

1. Read Romans 3:21–26. How would your neighbors respond to the phrase “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (verse 23)?
2. Are you ever tempted to compare your sins to others? Why would we do that?
3. How does this passage break down barriers between people? Jews and Gentiles? Christians and non-Christians?
4. Does the idea that Jesus justifies “freely by his grace” (verse 24) make it easier or harder to talk about sin in our lives?
5. Read Romans 12:1–2. As Jesus presented himself as a sacrifice (Romans 3:25), Paul encourages us to “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice” (verse 1). What are real ways that you sacrifice for your neighbors?
6. There is an old saying that says “Jesus loves you just the way you are, and he loves you too much to leave you there.” A life with Jesus is a life of transformation (verse 2). What does it mean to be transformed and not conformed? How has Jesus transformed your life?

LIVE IT OUT

Who in your life might feel excluded from Christian community because of something in their life? Find 1 way to sacrificially love them this week.

MEMORIZATION CHALLENGE

“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.” Romans 3:23–24