

SESSION 15

# GOD IS RIGHTEOUS (A)

## *Lesson Plan*



**RECOMMENDED READING**  
Chapter 16 “God Is Righteous”

### INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

When we pursue a relationship with our Creator, we are often tempted to think only of our own concerns. What are my needs? What do I want? However, the starting place should be who God is and how we come before Him. God’s character defines everything about life and the universe. How we view and relate to God impacts every other area of our life—our relationships, our self-image, and our purpose for living. Today’s session is about the righteousness of God.

Let’s begin by considering a few questions:

- ❓ Why does society have rules?
- ❓ Why do schools have rules for playgrounds?
- ❓ What is the purpose for having rules?
- ❓ What if there were no rules?
- ❓ What if no one enforced the rules?

Our God is righteous. That means everything He does is completely right. Because He is righteous, He also requires righteous behavior from us. Before we listen to Dr. Bright’s insights about the righteousness of our God, let’s ask the Holy Spirit to teach us about this attribute. Let’s also ask Him to help us reflect God’s righteousness more consistently in our daily behavior.

*Lead the group in prayer.*

### VIDEO TEACHING SEGMENT: *GOD IS RIGHTEOUS* (19 MINUTES)

*The cue graphic on the videotape is “Lesson 8” (the video segments are divided by attributes).*

As we think about God’s righteousness, let’s turn to the Video Outline on page 43 in the Study Guide. Dr. Bright has several insights to share with us.

### GROUP DISCUSSION (20 MINUTES)

- ❓ Do you think the last scene was realistic? Why or why not?
- ❓ Why is it so difficult for us to do what is right?
- ❓ Respond to Dr. Bright’s observation, “Without God we lose our moral compass.”
- ❓ What were your thoughts when Dr. Bright said, “We *can* experience joy, victory, and love”?
- ❓ What is holding you back from pursuing those things in your life that are right?

Once again I would like to draw your attention to the booklet *GOD: Seeking Him Wholeheartedly*. Since God is righteous, we need to respect His rules. Reread the section “Respect God and His Rules” on pages 13–16. Then throughout this next week consider the ways you can be more obedient to God and respectful of His ways.

### CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

*Lead the group in a closing prayer.*

SESSION 15

# GOD IS RIGHTEOUS (A)

## *Video Outline*



“The LORD is righteous in all His ways and loving toward all He has made” (Psalm 145:17, NIV).

1. **God is the source of all righteousness.**  
(Psalm 71:19; Psalm 119:14)
  
2. **Righteousness is the moral standard for the universe.**  
(Psalm 97:2; Jeremiah 9:24)
  
3. **God’s laws define righteous behavior.**  
(Psalm 119:137; Psalm 119:40)
  
4. **Even with our best effort, it is still impossible to meet God’s righteous standard.**  
(Isaiah 64:5,6; Micah 7:9)
  
5. **We can only become righteous by faith.**  
(Psalm 116:5; Romans 3:22–25; Isaiah 43:25; Ephesians 4:22–24)

“Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33, NIV).

“Surely, O LORD, You bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favor as with a shield” (Psalm 5:12, NIV).

*Because God is righteous,  
I will live by His standards.*

### RECOMMENDED READING

*GOD: Discover His Character*, Chapter 16 “God Is Righteous”

SESSION 16

# GOD IS RIGHTEOUS (B)

## *Lesson Plan*



**RECOMMENDED READING**  
Chapter 17 “God Helps Us Live Righteously”

*You will need a CD player and the “GOD: Musical Reflections of His Character” CD to conclude this session.*

**REVIEW (5 MINUTES)**

*Lead the group in prayer.*

In this session we’re going to be continuing our study of God’s righteousness.

- ❑ How is this study challenging you?
- ❑ In what ways are you encountering God throughout the week?
- ❑ As we think about today’s topic, how does *our* righteousness affect our community and our country?

**BIBLE STUDY (17 MINUTES)**

The Bible has a great deal to teach us about God’s righteousness. Let’s turn to page 44 in the Study Guide as we study several Bible passages about righteousness.

**VIDEO ILLUSTRATION SEGMENT: AMERICA’S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE (10 MINUTES)**

**LIFE APPLICATION (8 MINUTES)**

- ❑ Was there anything in this segment that you found encouraging? Discouraging? Challenging?
- ❑ How can we encourage one another to live lives of righteousness?

- ❑ Let’s turn to the Life Application section “Share His Majesty” on page 47 in your Study Guide.

How has our righteous God convicted or inspired you through this lesson?

With whom can you share these insights?

**CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)**

*Begin by having your group prayerfully listen, with eyes closed, to “God is Righteous” on the Musical Reflections CD. Afterwards, have the members of your group pair up and pray for one another, asking God to give them courage, faith, wisdom, and perseverance not only to be righteous but to seek after our righteous God.*

SESSION 16

# GOD IS RIGHTEOUS (B)

## *Bible Study*



**1. God blesses righteous behavior.**

Read 2 Chronicles 14:2–13.

- a. Why was King Asa considered a righteous king? What specific actions did he do that were right?
- b. How did the Lord reward him?
- c. What “altars” and idols exist in our society today?
- d. How can you remove them from your life?

**2. Righteousness involves believing God.**

Read Genesis 15:1–6.

- a. What did God promise Abram?
- b. Why, humanly speaking, did this seem impossible?
- c. What did Abram do that was righteous?
- d. In what areas of your life can you act righteously as Abram did?

**3. Righteousness is a gift from God.**

Read Romans 4:1–8.

- a. Was Abraham’s righteousness a result of faith or good works?
- b. Why is this distinction important?
- c. How are the man and woman of faith blessed?
- d. How are we as believers made righteous?

SESSION 16

## GOD IS RIGHTEOUS (B)

### *Life Application*



#### WRITE IT ON YOUR HEART

Memorize the following statement and verses. When you are tempted to compromise God's righteous standards this week, claim these promises from our God of righteousness.

- Because God is righteous, I will live by His standards.
- Psalm 145:17 (NIV)—“The LORD is righteous in all His ways and loving toward all He has made.”
- 1 Peter 3:12 (NIV)—“The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer.”
- 1 John 3:7 (NIV)—“Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as He is righteous.”

#### EXALT YOUR GOD

Worship God with the words of the psalmist:

O LORD, You are righteous, and Your decisions are fair. Your decrees are perfect; they are entirely worthy of our trust. I am overwhelmed with rage, for my enemies have disregarded Your words. Your promises have been thoroughly tested; that is why I love them so much. I am insignificant and despised, but I don't forget Your commandments. Your justice is eternal, and Your law is perfectly true. As pressure and stress bear down on me, I find joy in Your commands. Your decrees are always fair; help me to understand them, that I may live (Psalm 119:137–144).

#### REFLECT HIS IMAGE

We are called to be righteous, but we cannot do this in our own strength. Ask your patient Father to reveal areas of unrighteousness in your heart and life. Then repent and confess them to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to live a righteous life.

## *Life Application (continued)*

### COUNT ON GOD

Because God is righteous, He will never do wrong. This is an incredible promise! How simple and wise to place your trust in Someone who cannot wrong you. What problems are you currently facing?

Commit your cares to Him today.

### OBEY GOD

Our world today often calls right wrong and wrong right. We honor the immoral and ridicule the upright. Whose standards of right will you follow: God's or man's? Spend time in God's Word to determine His standards, and obey Him today.

### SHARE HIS MAJESTY

How has our righteous God convicted or inspired you through this lesson?

Share your insights with a friend.

#### RECOMMENDED READING

*GOD: Discover His Character*, Chapter 17 "God Helps Us Live Righteously"

If you would like to download the entire GOD: Discover His Character Bible Study (which covers all the attributes) for free. You'll find it by visiting our Resources section:

<http://DiscoverGod.com/resources>

