



## The Robe of Righteousness

### Robert Morris

**Focus** We're not sons because we serve; we serve because we're sons/daughters.

**Fun** Discuss the worst and best gift you have ever been given.

**Review** Key Scriptures: Luke 15:17–24; John 8:35, 15:15; Galatians 4:7; Isaiah 61:10, 64:6; Romans 4:6, 4:23–23, 4:3, 8:34; Zechariah 3:1–4; Revelation 3:18, 12:9–10, 19:8

#### 1. Earned or a gift?

The prodigal son believed he was worthy at one time to be called a son. After he squandered his inheritance and lived a sinful life that landed him in a pig pen, he felt unworthy. But the truth is that none of us have ever been worthy. Romans 4:6 tells us God imputes righteousness apart from works. To *impute* means to account or credit. God places our sins in Jesus' account and replaces our debt with Jesus' assets. Righteousness is a gift.

#### 2. Don't listen to the accuser.

In Zechariah, the Lord rebukes the accuser, removes our iniquity, and robes us with righteousness. Isaiah 64:6 reminds us that all our righteous acts are like filthy rags. Even the best thing we have to offer God falls short.

#### 3. Live like a son/daughter.

Even though none of us are righteous (Romans 3:10), God has gifted us with His robe of righteousness to help us live righteously. The Holy Spirit empowers us to do so. In Revelation 19:8, we learn righteous acts of the saints will be rewarded.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Consider attending Growth Path, Gateway's four-week series of classes designed to help you discover your part in God's story and fulfill His call on your life. Visit [growthpath.gatewaypeople.com](http://growthpath.gatewaypeople.com) for more information.

### **Discuss**

1. The prodigal son had faulty thinking, believing he was worthy at one point. Discuss when you might have had faulty thinking about who you are in Christ. How has your thinking changed?
2. Our heavenly Father is always looking for prodigals to come home. Discuss how He welcomed you when you turned to Him. Pray for prodigals in your life to turn to Christ.
3. Pastor Robert discussed how he was treated differently at work because he was the boss's son. Discuss differences between an employee and a son/daughter. Example: John 8:35
4. Read through Ephesians 2. Discuss what God is rich in and what changes in our positioning when we become believers.
5. How does knowing that righteousness is a gift change how we see God, ourselves, and others?

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- We are sons/daughters of the Most High God because we know Jesus, not because of our behavior.
- Satan is our accuser, but Jesus is our defender and intercessor.
- We are declared worthy to be a son/daughter because of Jesus' work completed on the cross.

### **Prayer**

Father God, thank You for Your great mercy! Thank You for gifting us with robes of righteousness. We praise You for the love and compassion You show us. We don't deserve Your love or mercy, but we are so grateful. Lord, we thank You for Jesus' sacrifice to save us. It's a debt we can never repay. We accept Your great and glorious gift, and we want to live righteously and honor You with our lives, our words, and our deeds. Lord, we pray for those in our lives who are running from You and wallowing in unrighteousness. Lord, we pray they will come to themselves as the prodigal son did and realize their great need for You. May they

turn and experience Your presence, Your mercy, and Your robe of righteousness. We praise You for the work You are doing to change hearts and lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Pray for eyes to be open to God's truth, understanding of the magnificent gift of God's love, and redemption. Pray for hearts to be softened and changed.