

Beginning 28 – Activities

✓ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

Imputed Righteousness

Noah is described in the Bible as being righteous. Righteousness is a quality that God has. What do we mean when we say God is righteous? Because God is righteous he always does what is right and good. There is nothing wrong in God and he doesn't sin.

Was Noah righteous like God? Why not? No, as a human Noah didn't always do what was right and good. He sinned and fell short of what was good and right.

What does it mean that Noah was righteous? *Dikaios*, the Greek word used in the Bible for righteous also means just. In the Old Testament when someone is described as righteous that means they understand their accountability to God and act in accord with or try to the best of their ability to obey God's righteous laws.

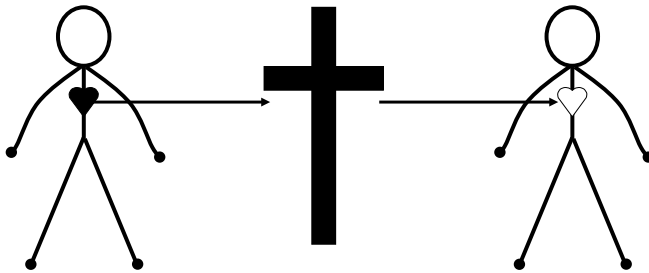
This meaning of righteousness is sometimes used in that same way in the New Testament, but in the New Testament there is also a new type of righteousness. This righteousness is called imputed righteousness.

What does impute mean? Impute means to take a quality that belongs to one person and then apply it to another person associated with the first person.

What, then, is imputed righteousness? Imputed righteousness is the gaining of the righteous of Christ. It is given to us, not because we act rightly, but because we recognize we are sinners and can't act right. We need to be made right.

What happens when we believe in Jesus? When we put our faith in Jesus and the work he did on the cross, we are seen as righteous by God, not because of what we have done, but because of what Jesus has done for us. It is the righteousness of Christ given to us because we belong to him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* What does the verse mean?



○ **Craft:** Woven heart

As a reminder that the heart is deceitful, make a woven heart.

Materials: cover stock paper, scissors, glue sticks

Preparation: Run off Craft 28 on cover stock paper.

Instructions:

1. Cut out the heart.
2. Fold the heart along the white line.
3. Turn the heart so the short black lines are facing up. Cut along them.

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4. Turn the heart over and open it up. Finish cutting along the black lines.
5. Cut out the black strips.
6. Weave the black strips in and out of the heart in a basket weave.
7. Glue the ends of the black strip down and cut off excess paper.

○ **Game:** Hide the Heart

Talk to the children about how we often try to hide what's in our heart rather than let it be cleansed by Jesus. If evil stays in the heart it gets worse. To see the evil we have to let Jesus examine our heart and reveal what is real about it to us.

Instructions: Cut out a heart to hide. Select one student to hide the heart with a little piece of it showing. All students put their heads down and cover their eyes while the heart is hidden. Once the heart is hidden, they lift their eyes and look around to see if they can find it. If no one spots it then the teacher tells them to get up and search. The child that finds the heart gets to hide it.