

WEEKLY COMPASS



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Inclusivity

Often it is shared that to be born in America, regardless of your economic status, gender, race, or religious affiliation, is one of the greatest things that can happen to an individual. Oftentimes it is suggested that somehow being born an American citizen provides access to more opportunities than one may experience in other parts of the world. In other words, American citizenship has its benefits, and unfortunately, those who are not counted in this somewhat exclusive group are therefore unable to partake in such benefits. For this reason we see countless refugees seeking asylum or escape from oppressive conditions so they can not only experience solace from their war torn home countries, but also to have opportunities that aren't possible in their native lands.

To achieve American citizenship, it is a well-known fact that the naturalization process takes some time - years even - and studying is required to pass the test to determine if one will "make the cut." This is not so when it comes to being a Christian. The cost of following Christ is certainly not cheap, nor is walking with Christ easy; however, one would be hard pressed to find any other religion that may be as inclusive as Christianity. It does not matter where you were born, where your ancestors originate from, or how much wealth you do or do not possess. Romans 10:13 reminds us that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. There are no footnotes or asterisks suggesting there's

more to this verse. This is great news for us because that means that no matter how wrong our wrongs appear to us, or maybe even others, we yet have access to the gift of salvation.

God's Word also reveals to us that He loved the world so much that He gave His only son. John 3:16 doesn't highlight any specific gender, ethnic group or nationality stipulations for this "gift" in the form of Jesus Christ. Rather, for those who choose to believe that the Almighty God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, He who is the Alpha and Omega loved His creations such that He was willing to give His one and only Son, and for those who believe that Jesus Christ lived, was crucified for the sins of humanity, then three days later was resurrected, will have immediate access to eternal salvation. Therefore, when it comes to being counted as one of God's children, belief is the test, and there is only one answer - Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior.

Talking Point(s)

1. How did you come to the realization that the gift of salvation found in Jesus Christ was accessible to you?
2. What are some steps you can take to share the gospel to those who may think being a Christian is inaccessible to them?

Prayer: *Dear Father, Thank You for being faithful to Your Word and truly seeking whosoever from all around the world to know You, believe in Your Son, and to live a life that is aligned with Your will and Your plans to prosper us. In Jesus name, Amen.*

Sunday School Lesson and Scripture

**Changing Identity
Ruth 1:6-18, 22**

Devotional Reading

**God Honors Genuine
Faith
Acts 10:34-48**

**Unifying Topic
The Faith of Ruth**

Main Thought

And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for wither thou goest, I will go: and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.

Ruth 1:16 (KJV)