

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

## Scripture

Galatians 3:1-6, 10-14, 21-26

## Session Summary

In the letter to the Galatians, Paul is disturbed by how quickly they have turned from grace to the law, which means they turned back to the rules of the old covenant. In the old covenant, the only way to turn to God was to become Jewish, spiritually and culturally. But thanks to Jesus' sacrifice, we can have a relationship with God apart from becoming externally, culturally Jewish. Abraham, to whom the promises were given and from whom the Jewish people descend, was himself counted righteous through faith. Why, then, would his descendants, biological or spiritual (Gal. 3:7), be saved by the law? Paul's answer is clear—they wouldn't. Salvation is a matter of faith from start to finish.

Our growth and progress in Christ are not achieved through law, but through faith, because our new life in Christ rests not on our works, but on the gracious gift of His Holy Spirit (Gal. 3:3). According to Paul, any attempt to be made righteous through the law is spiritual suicide; for if you fail to live up to all of its demands, you incur its judgments. It is this need for perfect adherence to the law that leads Paul to say with full assurance, "no one is justified before God by the law" (Gal. 3:11). So, does God just let us off the hook through faith? No; rather, Jesus took the curse that our law-breaking sins deserved, so that through faith in Jesus, God could count us as righteous. But freedom from law does not mean we are free to sin. God's law is the overflow of His own character, and our lives ought to look like Christ, who was the perfect fulfillment of the law.

- Why can't we be saved through the law?
- How is God able to forgive us even though our works deserve His judgment?
- How is biblical freedom different than the world's understanding of freedom?
- How does the gospel empower us to live godly lives without becoming self-righteous?

Encourage each person in the family to get or make a small gift for the others. Exchange the gifts and then discuss how they were free to receive, but they cost the giver. Perhaps they cost money, and they certainly cost time, but the gifts were not free to give. So it is with the gift of salvation. It is free for us to receive by faith, but it cost Jesus an enormous price.