

## Galatians 2:15–21

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

## Galatians 2:20

MEMORY VERSE

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **Galatians 2:20**

As kids, we couldn't wait to grow up. We looked forward to having a car. We wanted the newest clothes and a big house. We had great dreams about a career, success, and going on lavish vacations with our families and friends.

But we didn't know much about bills. We didn't know what it costs to own a car. We didn't think about the fact that clothes do not come free. We didn't know the word mortgage. We didn't realize that a career requires hard work, and success is uncertain. We had no idea how expensive vacations can be or how friends are sometimes fickle.

Looking back, we now realize how much trust we had in our parents. They did the hard work of balancing bills and paychecks to provide for us the joy of childhood.

Read Galatians 2:15–21. Paul was concerned that the Galatians were becoming too legalistic, living within law instead of grace. They needed to be reminded that their lives couldn't provide enough effort and work to gain salvation. Just as we didn't understand in childhood how expensive life is, we often turn to law when we forget how expensive God's grace was for His children to have—it cost Him the life of His Son. Christ has done the work. The effort in our lives simply comes in response to God's saving grace.

Promote an atmosphere of thankfulness in your home by talking about how much God has blessed your family. But also demonstrate thankfulness in how you live. Show that you live according to God's grace and not by man's religious laws. As a result, your student will see the sincerity of your heart before God and understand the grace of God through the testimony of your life.

## FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

### Connect . . .

Family members share their thoughts on the question: **What are the expectations adults have for children in the family?** Then an adult reads: **In our family, we have standards for how to live, but they are not what keep us in the family. What holds us together is love.**

### Explore . . .

A family member reads Galatians 2:15–21. Share that Paul was concerned the Galatians were learning certain requirements to be a "right Christian." Say: **Paul saw a mix-up. The truth is we cannot do anything to save ourselves. Our best works are never good enough to make us perfect. God is the one who saves us through Jesus Christ. That is the only way to be a "right Christian" because it is the only way to be a Christian.**

### Transform . . .

Discuss family expectations about church participation. But rather than focus on "rules," encourage family members to share how worship, Bible study, and friendship with other believers are valuable on a personal level. If this is an area of tension, allow a few days for thoughts to sink in rather than pressing for immediate resolution.

**Pray together that family members will strive to live according to the freedom of God's grace and not man's religious laws.**