

Ephesians 2:8–10

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Ephesians 2:8–9

MEMORY VERSE

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. **Ephesians 2:8–9**

Two families, the Smiths and the Joneses, lived side by side in a nice neighborhood. Their houses were similar, both yards were nicely mowed, and the dads had good jobs. Both moms stayed home, and the children were well liked and involved at school. The families enjoyed visiting and cooking out on weekends. However, there was one major difference. The Smiths were believers in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and lived out their faith. As a result of their relationship with Christ, they wanted to be involved in helping others, mission projects, giving, and working at the local shelter.

The Joneses were very nice people. They gave to the Salvation Army at Christmas, always bought Girl Scout cookies, and the mom was on the PTA board at their children’s school. Dad coached the baseball team, served on the local Chamber of Commerce, and was

willing to help whenever needed. People complimented both families on their involvement in the community. Which family could boast about their efforts? Both families could.

Now read Ephesians 2:8–10. These verses state very clearly that our good works will not save us. Salvation is a gift from God and not based on anything we do.

Students live in a world based on merit—both out in the world and likely at home as well. Receiving something as big as salvation, peace with God, and eternal life may be difficult for students to comprehend. They will know grace as the free gift that it is when we live and extend grace to them without expecting anything in return. Grace is unmerited love and favor.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

The family uses a tennis ball, taking turns throwing it to different members of the family. As they do, each person shares one thing they enjoyed doing to help others recently. Family members share what their motivation was for having done the good work.

Explore . . .

A family member reads Ephesians 2:8–10. Another family member then reads: **Helping others can be really fun. However, we can do many good things, but still not have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Ask: What does the Bible tell us is a free gift from God? Where do works come into the picture—before or after we have been saved? What would be our motivation to do good works after we’re saved?**

Transform . . .

A family member reads: **We cannot earn salvation by our good works, but we’re called to do good works once we’ve been saved. Our motivation is to focus on others and share God’s love for them. What will our family do together to love people and point them to Christ by our actions?**

Pray that your family will see that although good works do not save them, God calls us to do good works in order to show His love and draw people to Him.