

Family Devotional

From September 17, 2017

Last week as we started Galatians, Paul was upset that some teachers were trying to lead the Galatians away from the true gospel. They were putting requirements on believers that were not from God. As Paul continues to write to the Galatians he uses his own story as a way to show them the true power of the Gospel of Christ.

READ: Galatians 1:13-24 and either "A New Way to See" from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* page 334 or Acts 8:1-3 & 9: 1-22

Reflect:

- What was Paul doing before he met Jesus?
- What experience did Paul have that caused him to rethink his actions?
- How did he choose to live after this?
- If you were living at the same time as Paul would you have trusted that he had really changed?
- What clues would you look for to see if the change was real or just a show?

It can be kind of scary to trust someone after they have been mean to you, but that is the true power of the gospel of Jesus! He came to turn our lives around! When we choose to follow our own desires, we often go in a direction that is self-centered, but when we choose to follow Jesus, He will lead us in a path that is first God centered which in turn leads us to look out for the needs of others too.

Paul was encouraging the Galatians to evaluate what they were being told and see if it is pointing to what Jesus has done or if it is pointing to what we have to do. It was the Jesus centered gospel that produced such a powerful change in Paul's life. He had tried to do everything by the law before, but when he choose to follow Jesus is when we see the real change. This is proof of what God can do with a life when it is surrendered to Him!

We all have a story of what God has done in our lives. Most of our stories are not quite as dramatic as Paul's story, but they are still powerful! When we are telling people of the loving God we serve, it is often easier for them to relate to a way that God has worked or is working in your life than to a Bible story.

Together as a family talk about the ways God has been working in your lives!

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize and/or meditate on Jeremiah 15:19 this week.

Thus says the LORD," If you return, then I will restore you-- Before Me you will stand;

Ideas: Write it down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you saving us by your great love and mercy. Help us remember your love for us is not dependent on our actions but who holds our heart. Help us share this Good News with others! Amen!"