

# Family Devotional

From October 22, 2017

**Read:** Joshua and his family were spending the day at his grandmother's house. Jeremy, his older brother, and Dad were in the front yard raking leaves. "Can I help?" Joshua asked excitedly.

"The rake is bigger than you are," Jeremy teased.

"I have the perfect job for you," his dad responded. "Can you hold the bags open for us so we can fill them with leaves?"

"Ok," Josh responded not so excitedly. He held bag after bag for Jeremy and his dad.

Once there was a large pile of bags, Dad said, "Ok let's carry these to the curb." Joshua attempted to pick up one of the full bags of leaves, but he couldn't get a good grasp on it because it was so full. "They are a little big for you aren't they?" Jeremy observed. "Don't worry. Dad and I got this. I saw grandma bringing out a plate of her famous cookies. Why don't you go get one and we'll meet you up there."

Joshua shuffled to the front porch, kicking at the leaves still to be bagged. "Why such a sad face Joshua?" his grandmother asked.

"All I wanted to do was help," Joshua sighed, "but I'm not big enough."

"Not big enough... hmm... I that reminds me of what I was reading this morning in Galatians." Grandmother popped back inside for her Bible and flipped through the pages until she reached Galatians 6, "Here it is, <sup>2</sup> Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup> Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else...<sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.' (Galatians 6:2-4, 9-10) See God does not want us to compare our actions or abilities to someone else, we are called to obey what He has given us to do. That means we can never be too small or too big or too young or too old to do good to those around us! We are all part of God family and we each have a very unique and important role!"

"That's right," Dad added as he joined them on the porch, "Plus, have you ever seen someone try to fill a bag of leaves on their own?" Joshua shook his head. "Show him Jeremy." Jeremy picked up a big pile of leave in one hand and held the bag with the other. A few made it in, but over half of them blew away in the process.

"See squirt, we need your help!" Jeremy admitted.

Joshua's face brightened. "Let's go finish the yard!" He jumped up enthusiastically.

"Cookies first!" declared dad and Jeremy in unison.

**Remember:** Work together as a family to memorize and/or meditate on Galatians 6:9 this week.

**Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will  
reap a harvest if we do not give up.**

*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 God, thank you for making us a part of your family. Help us use the unique gifts and talents you have given each of us to bless those around us ..... Amen!"