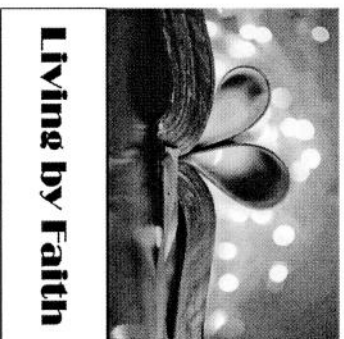


God's Story Our Story

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May 21, 2017



Living by Faith

Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone or with others; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

God of life,

We all stand condemned, but for your grace, O God. Foster in us such love for your word that we cannot help but proclaim it freely and openly to all, in the name of your son Jesus. Amen.

Reflect: Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:19-20

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

Paul's gifts as an orator are beginning to blossom. With power and grace he calls out some of the leaders on their inconsistencies, and presents himself as the classic example of someone who could not have been justified but through the grace of Jesus.

Consider: Consider this theme for the week's text.

There are no good guys and no bad guys. There are just people saved by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Read: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday: *Living by Faith*, Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21

Monday: *Welcome to the Galatians*, Galatians 1:1-12

Tuesday: *Paul Defends His Apostleship*, Galatians 1:18-24

Wednesday: *Paul and the Other Apostles*, Galatians 2:1-10

Thursday: *God's Promise to Abraham*, Galatians 3:10-18

Friday: *The Purpose of the Law*, Galatians 3:19-22

Saturday: *Paul Reprimands the Galatians*, Galatians 4:8-20

What is going on in Galatia?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Christians historically have been notorious for expecting believers and non-believers to live by the law (as though saved by our good deeds and our refraining from sin). How might your story sound if you shared the good news that people are saved by the work of Jesus Christ apart from their good works? How might non-believers respond to such a message?

How do you feel about the news that your salvation doesn't depend upon what you do or fail to do? Does this sound like good news or bad to you? What might prevent you from claiming this gift of justification and salvation? How can you begin to let go of your reservations?

Do: By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Watch an old movie about good guys and bad guys. Then watch a newer movie where the line between good and bad is blurred. Which feels more like your experience?

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

You are good. Amen.