

Materials I Need:







Legend:


-  = Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade
 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade


Memory Work:

“Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.” Galatians 2:16

Hook:

- All Believers Go To Heaven (Discussion).** ,  Have the students draw what they think heaven will look like, and while they draw, talk with them about what they understand about heaven. What exactly is heaven? Who will be there? What will it be like? How do you get to go to heaven? How do you know if you'll go? Let the students take the lead with this so that you can learn what they are thinking. After you have talked for a while, you can then point them back to the truth.
- Heirs to an Estate (Discussion/Activity).** ,  Talk about what it means to inherit something. Bring in photos of grandparents and great grandparents, pieces of old jewelry, family heirlooms, etc. Explain how our parents will pass things on to us when they die. We will inherit or be the heirs of their estate. From our earthly parents we inherit earthly things. If we are children of God, we will inherit eternal things from our heavenly Father. How would you like to be a child of God and inherit God's special gift of salvation? This morning the students will continue to learn how Paul desperately wanted the Galatians to realize as believers that they were considered sons of God and heirs to the promise of God.
- Imprisoned by Sin, Locked Up by the Law (Activity).** ,  Construct a jail of sorts using boxes, tables, mobile coat racks, etc. As the students arrive, inform them that they must go to prison for sins that they have committed. James 2:10, Romans 3:23, and Romans 3:10-19 tell us that we are all sinners. It is impossible for us to live our lives without sin. Once all the students have been put into prison, lock them up with a big padlock that says "The Law" on it. Explain that because we are all sinners, it was impossible for the Jews to keep all the laws established during the time of Moses. Trying to keep every single law perfectly was essentially imprisoning them. The only way they could be freed from that prison was to be declared "righteous," which means "right before a perfect and holy God." We cannot do this on our own. We cannot become "righteous" by working hard and doing all the right things. We are still sinful. There is only one way to be "justified" or declared righteous before God and, therefore, released from, or forgiven for, all of our sins. You might consider leaving your students in prison for the presentation of this morning's Bible Adventure (see BOOK time presentation idea), and release them afterwards.


 **What Is Faith? (Discussion/Activity).** 🐛, 🦋 Talk with your students about the concept of "faith." Look up the definition in a dictionary. See how it is used in the Bible. Demonstrate a type of faith by asking several of your students, one at a time, to stand with their backs facing you, arms folded, and eyes closed. Now ask them to fall backwards freely, having faith that you will catch them before they hit the floor. The moment they begin to fall back, they have taken a step of faith. If they continue to fall and don't try to catch themselves, they have placed total faith in your ability to catch them. This morning they will hear how having faith in Christ is the only way to be justified before God.

 **Coming up Short (Activity – Part 1).** 🐛, 🦋 This activity is divided into two parts: the activity below and the discussion in the LOOK time. Set up four stations around the room plus a REWARD area in the front. Label the stations SKILL, KNOWLEDGE, DEEDS, and THOUGHTS. Man each station with at least one teacher. Give each student nine pennies, tokens, or play coins. Give the students the following instructions: You cannot share your coins or trade them with anyone. You must be honest in your answers at each station. Each student must go to each of the first four stations before going to the Rewards Station. Skill Station: #Give the student 15 seconds to complete some type of puzzle (Children's Ministry Resource Room has several metal mind-boggling puzzles). They must pay one cent if they cannot complete it. Knowledge Station: #Recite this week's Bible verse. They must pay one cent if they cannot complete it. Deed Station: #Tell something kind they did for another this morning. They must pay one cent if they cannot think of anything. Thoughts Station: #Have they ever lied, cheated, thought an unkind thought about someone? They must pay one cent for each of these they have ever done. When everyone has completed the stations, ask who thinks they did well enough to have enough money left to buy a reward? Tell them that the reward costs 10 cents. Did anybody do well enough to buy their reward? Even if they hadn't lost any of their pennies they would not have had enough! Tell the students to listen to today's Bible Adventure to see how there is only one way we will ever be able to receive a lasting reward.



Book:

Presentation Ideas –

 **Courtroom Scene (Activity).** See the HOOK activity, “Imprisoned by Sin, Locked up by the Law.” At the conclusion of the Bible Adventure, have someone dressed as a judge enter the classroom and sit behind a desk with a gavel. Have another person enter as a Bible character and present a white cross to the judge and explain that Christ's sacrifice has paid the price for our sins once and for all, that He has redeemed us, and set us free. Upon being handed the cross, the judge then declares that the students be released from prison.

 **Jesus Crucified (Illustration/Coloring Page).** Galatians 3:1, **GAL03.GF1.**

 **Abraham's Faith (Illustration/Coloring Page).** Galatians 3:6-9, Genesis 15:6, **GAL03.GF2.**

 **Prisoner of Sin (Illustration/Coloring Page).** Galatians 3:22, **GAL03.GF3.**

Bible Adventure –

Can you ever do enough good things to gain God's favor and earn your way into heaven? What if you decided that from here on out you were going to stop fighting with your brother or sister? And what if (miracle of miracles!) you actually succeeded and never fought again? Would that be enough for God to overlook all your other sins and allow you into heaven? Absolutely not! You see, God is perfect and holy, and we must be completely innocent of sin in order to be with Him in heaven. So what are we to do?

Paul discussed this very thing in his letter to the Galatians. Paul declared, in no uncertain terms, that faith in Jesus Christ alone would make a person blameless and able to enter heaven. No amount of good works could earn God's favor. But remember the Judaizers? They were running around telling the Galatian Christians that faith in Jesus was good, but not enough. They insisted that the Galatians must also follow the Jewish laws and rituals in order to please God and avoid punishment for their sins. Paul was shocked when he heard this! He could not believe that the Galatians could be fooled by such wrong, unbiblical thinking.

Paul told the Galatians that the problem was not in a person's good works (for example, not fighting with your brother or sister is a good thing!). The problem was (and still is) that everyone is a sinner and deserves God's punishment. A good deed here or there does not change that fact. God has declared that the punishment for sin is death. But He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and take the punishment that we deserve. God's anger toward sin was poured out on Jesus rather than on us. When a sinner comes to God and says, "God, I know I don't deserve Your forgiveness, but I trust in Your Son to take away all of my sins, and now I want to trust and obey You," God declares that sinner clean and free from the guilt of sin. He now considers him completely innocent and fit to be with Him in heaven. Paul called this "justification" (that's a big word, but see if you can remember it!).

To make his point clear to the Galatians, Paul referred way back to the Old Testament book of Genesis. He reminded them of what God said about Abraham, the father of the Jews. "Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to Him as righteousness." (Genesis 15:6) That means that Abraham was not saved because of the good things he did, but because he believed and trusted in God. He was "justified" by his faith, not his good works. How silly it was then that the Judaizers were saying you had to follow Jewish laws to be saved when the father of the Jews himself was saved by faith alone!

Just as the Judaizers thought they needed faith plus good works to be saved, many people are likewise deceived today. Most people believe that if they are good enough, they can make it to heaven. What about you? How will you get to heaven? Only by placing your faith in Jesus and trusting Him to take away your sin, will you be saved. Humbly come to the Lord and place your trust and faith in Him and all that He has done for you. Because Jesus paid the penalty and took the punishment for your sin, you can find total and complete forgiveness through Him. Then you can stand innocent and blameless before our good and holy God.

Aim Questions:

1. **What was the name of the group of Jews who were teaching a false gospel in the churches of Galatia?** (*Judaizers.*)
2. **What did they teach, and why was it wrong?** (*They taught that a Gentile needed to obey the Old Testament laws in order to be saved. This is wrong because the Old Testament teaches that people are saved by faith.*)
3. **How did Paul use Abraham to prove his point about the true Gospel?** (*Genesis 15 took place even before his circumcision in Genesis 17.*)
4. **What does the word "justified" mean?** (*It means "to declare righteous."*)
5. **On what basis can God declare a guilty sinner righteous without having him face the penalty of his sins?** (*On the basis that Jesus Christ took our punishment and died for our sins.*)
6. **As you think about your own life, have you been declared righteous before the Lord, based upon your faith alone in Christ alone?**



Look:




Justified by Faith (Worksheet/Discussion). Have the students complete each portion of the worksheet at their table groups, **GAL03.GF4**.





Just As If I Never Sinned (Coloring Page/Craft). 🦋 Use **GAL03.GF5** as you review the Bible Adventure and discuss further the concept of justification. This coloring page can be mounted on a sheet of construction paper. Attach a piece of yarn to the back to enable the students to hang it on the wall.






Coming up Short (Activity – Part 2). 🦋, 🦋 Remind the students that, just as they had to pay for their mistakes during the HOOK time activity, we also must pay for our sin. Just as they were short enough money needed to buy their reward, we are sinners from the time we are born and cannot have the eternal reward of forgiveness, salvation, and everlasting life with God unless we are justified through faith in Christ and found innocent of our sins. He took our deserved punishment when He died on the cross.




 **Abraham – Father of the Jews (Review).** Abraham was a man of faith. Ask the students what it was about him that earned God’s approval. Discuss how, in Genesis 13 and 14, Abraham gave Lot his choice of the land. After he had done this, God confirmed the covenant He had made with Abraham, to give him and his descendants the land for as far as Abraham’s eye could see. Abraham asked God how the promise of uncountable descendants would come true when he had no children. God said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them.” God told Abraham that his offspring would number as many as the stars.

The Bible tells us that “Abraham believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.” Ask the students what this means. Explain to them that this is the faith we’ve been talking about. It means that Abraham put his whole trust and hope in God, into God’s words, and into God’s ability to do exactly what He said He would do. His faith had nothing to do with Abraham, and everything to do with God. Because of that faith, God credited Abraham’s faith to him as righteousness. In other words, God took His own righteousness and gave it to Abraham, not because Abraham had earned it, but because Abraham believed in Him. Emphasize to the students that even faith is a gift from God.

 **Saved by Faith (Craft).**  Each student will need:
a heart from **GAL03.GF6** copied onto cardstock
scissors
coloring crayons or markers
18” piece of yarn
hole punch

Allow the students to decorate their hearts as desired. Punch a hole in the top and string a piece of yarn through it for a necklace.

 **The Cross Covers Our Sin (Craft/Worksheet).**   Give each student a **GAL03.GF7 Pgs. 1 & 2**. When the students have completed each step, they will have a picture of how the work of Christ on the cross covers their sin. Discuss with them how they are then seen as justified (JUST-AS-IF-I’D NEVER SINNED) or innocent by God.

 **Handcuffs of Guilt (Craft).**   Duplex copy **GAL03.GF8 Pgs. 1-8** as directed on each page and cut into strips. Copy **GAL03.GF8 Pg. 9** onto dark grey or use as a template for cutting out the black strips. Using the diagram sheet on **GAL03.GF8 Pg. 10**, link the strips together with the large black strip in the middle to make handcuffs. Make sure the sin words show on the outside. Use staples to secure. Give each student a set of handcuffs. Explain that all are guilty of sin and how they can be justified through faith in Jesus. Ask the students to take the chains apart and glue them onto a piece of construction paper as shown on the instruction sheet so that the parts of the sentence are showing. Go over the meanings of the colors of the wordless book that explains the only way to salvation.




Black: Darkness-separation from God.

Red: Blood-God shed His blood to cover our sins.

White: The darkness of our sin has been washed away by Jesus’ blood.

Green: Growth-growing in God’s Word.

Gold: Eternal life with God in heaven.

 **Faith vs. Works Game (Game).**   In the right corner, we have the long time champion, “Faith,” and in the left corner, we have the age old challenger, “Works.” The students will compete in an obstacle course, scoring points for one of these two opponents. Tally points on the board as you go; in the end Faith will win over Works. Set up a reasonable obstacle course circuit in the room so that there are three or four distinct sections within the circuit. Divide the class into that same number of groups and assign each group a section of the course. When a student is finished with that section, he or she may move on to the end of the line in the next section, although time may not permit the students to complete more than one or two sections of the whole course. Each student will perform a section twice; once for the challenger Works and once for the champion Faith. The course will be completed blindfolded both times. The first time, the student will be given instructions, blindfolded and directed toward the course after being spun three times. He or she is to complete the course meeting every objective stated in the instructions. Here are some options for the different circuit sections:

- Mark out a square with four cones and place various safe objects in it. Instruct the students to get through the square to the other side without touching any of the objects in it.
- Mark out a square with four cones and place several squeaky toys in it. Instruct the students to find as many different toys and as they can in 30 seconds, and squeak each of them for a point.
- Find the pencil and paper (on a clipboard) within the square and copy the magazine picture that the teacher is holding.

If the student succeeds, a tally mark is to be immediately placed as a point under the “Works” section of the board. That same student is to return to the beginning and complete that same course by faith. Continuing with the blindfold and after being spun, the student will complete that section while trusting the guidance of one of the teacher’s voices giving him or her exact verbal directions for completing the course (e.g., “slide your left foot forward six inches and step your right foot high over the large stuffed animal”). If the student is successful in meeting all the stated objectives of the course, mark a point under “Faith” on the board. You may need to shuffle the obstacles a bit after each new student in line has put on the blindfold, to keep them guessing. In the end, be sure to discuss the impossibility of winning, or saving ourselves, by our own works. It is appropriate that they were blindfolded because we are “blind” in this life and need God’s direction for both salvation and good works. Also, remind the students that in the Christian life, faith does not oppose good works but it does go before them. We cannot succeed in good works unless we are trusting God to show us the work to be done.

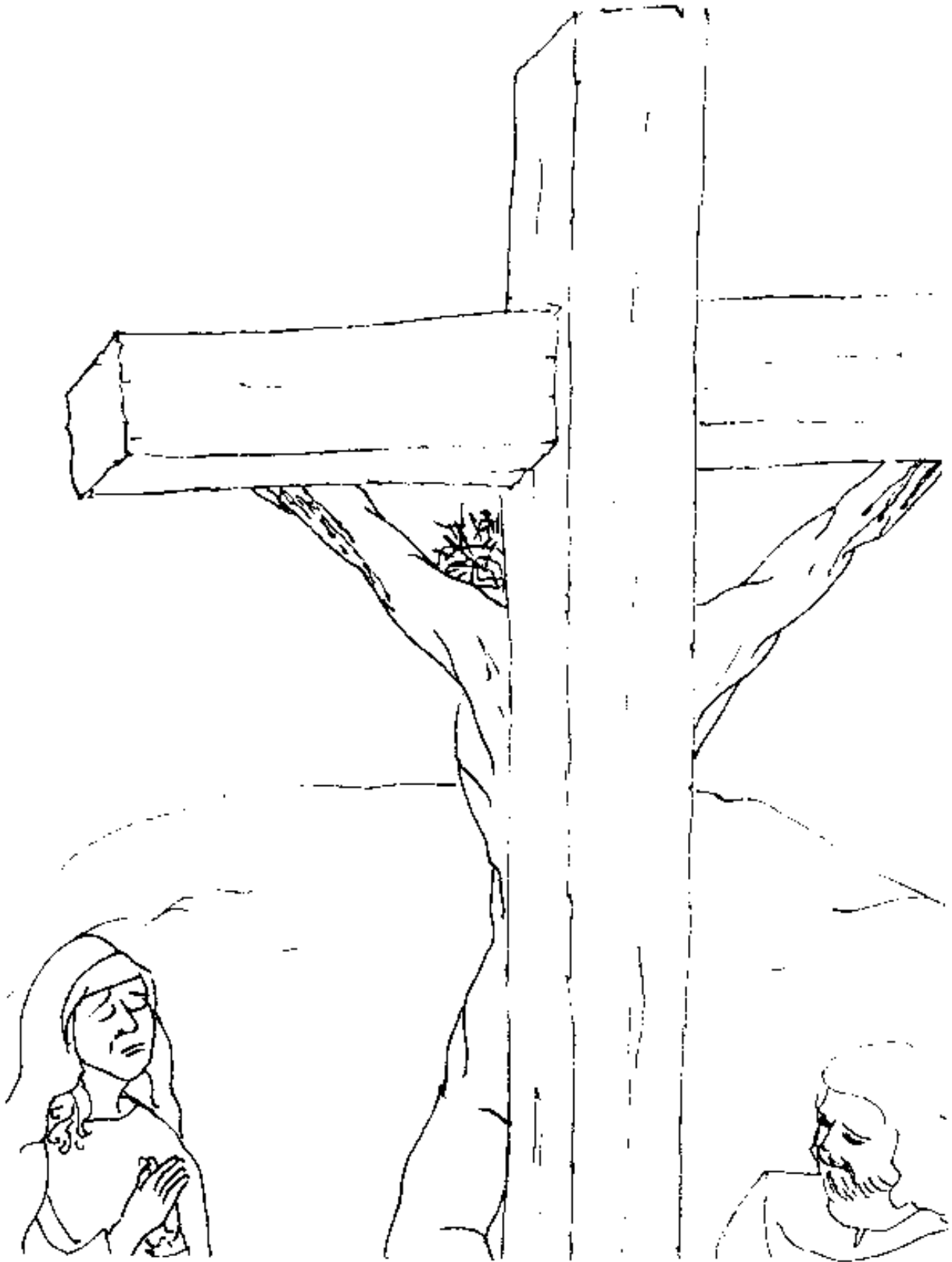
- Aim Questions (Worksheet).** 🍌 Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today’s Bible Adventure, **GAL03.GF9**.
- Passage Review Questions (Worksheet).** 🍌, 🦋 This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today’s lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **GAL03.GF10**.
- Galatians 2:16 (Memory Verse Song).** 🍌 Words and music for today’s memory verse are available upon request from Children’s Ministry.



Took:

- Hang Your Sins on the Cross (Activity).** 🍌, 🦋 Talk about the sins that we all commit daily. Encourage the students to write out some of their sins on a small piece of paper. Have each student go to the front of the class and tape the sins to the cross (made from butcher paper by the teacher prior to class). Leave this up for next week’s classtime. Sometime after the students have left the classroom, remove all the pieces of paper and in their place tape a small butterfly from **GAL03.GF11** (colored and cut out by the teacher prior to class and unknown to the students). When the students arrive next week they will see that their sins have been replaced by a beautiful butterfly.
- Paul in Pain (Discussion).** 🍌, 🦋 Look up Galatians 4:19 and discuss the depth of Paul’s commitment to teaching the truth. How deep is our commitment to seeing those around us come to embrace the Gospel? Do we agonize over each person with whom we come in contact who doesn’t know Christ? Do we commit ourselves to proclaiming the truth in a world around us which is hostile toward it? Talk about ways that we can take a stand for the truth this week.
- One Way Card (Craft).** 🍌, 🦋 Duplex copy **GAL03.GF12 Pgs. 1 & 2** onto colored cardstock for the students to cut out and fold into a card for an unsaved friend. Have them pray for that person and the opportunity to give them the card this week.
- How Do You Measure Up? (Worksheet).** 🍌, 🦋 Discuss with the students that, compared to others, they may think they lead somewhat sinless lives. Have them use **GAL03.GF13** during the coming week to see how often they really do sin. We all do and, therefore, we all need Jesus as our Savior.

Jesus Crucified

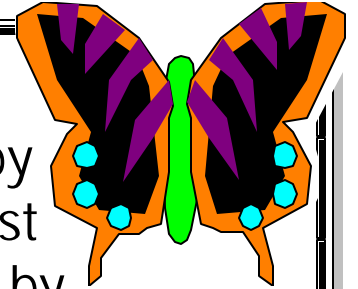


Abraham's Faith



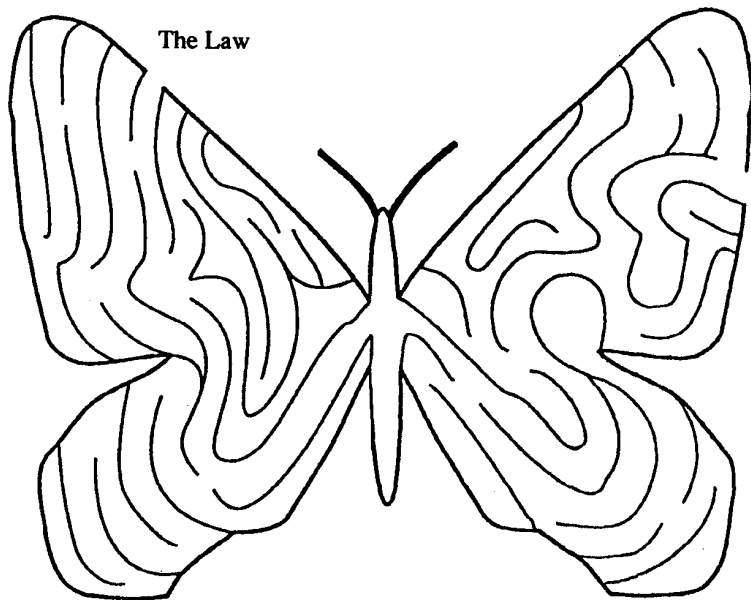
Prisoner of Sin





"Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified."

The Law was given to lead us to Christ. Just as a caterpillar turns into a beautiful butterfly, so do we become beautiful at the cross. Start at the Law and follow the maze to



Christ

Prayer

Dear God, thank You that You love us and You have made a way for us to be free and to be Your sons and daughters through faith in Jesus. Help us not to be fooled into thinking that we must keep a set of rules before we can be Your child. Help us to live every day by faith in Jesus. In His name we pray, amen.

Small Group Discussion

1. Can a tutor make a person learn what he is supposed to learn? How does the Law, the rules that God gave us, help us to learn about God? Do the rules have any power to help us to obey? Who gives us the power to do what God says is right for us? Look at the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 as a sample of the Law. Can we always keep those rules perfectly? How does Jesus fulfill the Law and give us power to become more like Christ?
2. Talk about what you like about having brothers and sisters. Talk about what bothers you. Why does that bother you? Should they change or should you change your attitude, or both? How do we change to be more like what God wants us to be?

JUSTIFIED
as if
I'D Never Sinned

GALATIANS
2:16



"For the wages of sin is death..."
Romans 6:23

(print name here)

2 is GUILTY of SIN

God is holy, righteous, and just. Therefore, He must hold us accountable for our sin.

5) Cut along these dotted lines

BEGIN HERE.

Find the circled numbers 1-10 in order on this worksheet.

Near each number is a verse or instructions. Read them carefully and follow all instructions given.

At the solid line, FOLD UP and OVER.

1 Hitting in anger

Lying

6 "There is no one righteous

WRONG THOUGHTS

CHEATING

Jealousy

Hateful feelings

Stealing

PRIDE

Disrespect of authority

8 Hurtful words

4 No matter how hard we try, we cannot be righteous on our own.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
Romans 3:23

10

7 Cut out this box using the dotted lines as a guide.

3 Find and color in all of the listed sins you have EVER been guilty of.

9 Cut out this box using the dotted lines as a guide.

**can
be
forgiven.**

“Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.”

Galatians 2:16



**Christ's
blood has
covered the
sins of those
who by
faith trust
in Him.**

Selfish anger

Selfish anger

Selfish anger

Selfish anger

Selfish anger

Selfish anger

Selfish anger

Selfish anger

Selfish anger

Selfish anger

Selfish anger

Selfish anger

Jesus shed His blood to cover our sins

Jesus shed His blood to cover our sins

Jesus shed His blood to cover our sins

Jesus shed His blood to cover our sins

Jesus shed His blood to cover our sins

Jesus shed His blood to cover our sins

Jesus shed His blood to cover our sins

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Jesus shed His blood to cover our sins

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so that we can be justified through faith in Him
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Jealousy

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Greed

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with God in heaven.

with God in heaven.

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Separation from God

Separation from God

Separation from God

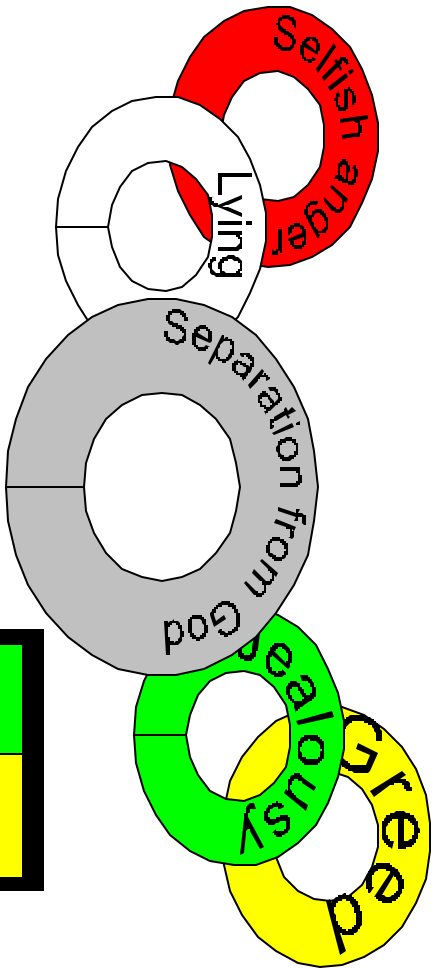
Separation from God

Separation from God

Separation from God

Separation from God

Separation from God



Jesus shed His blood to cover our sins

so that we can be justified through faith in Him

and have eternal life

with God in heaven.

Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. What was the name of the group of Jews who were teaching a false gospel in the churches of Galatia?
2. What did they teach, and why was it wrong?
3. How did Paul use Abraham to prove his point about the true Gospel?
4. What does the word "justified" mean?
5. On what basis can God declare a guilty sinner righteous without having him face the penalty of his sins?
6. As you think about your own life, have you been declared righteous before the Lord based upon your faith alone in Christ alone?

No amount of good works can earn God's righteous salvation. Justification happens through the finished work of Jesus Christ alone who died and took the penalty of sin on our behalf. Through Christ's covering God sees true Christians as righteous.

Galatians Chapter 3

"Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified."

Galatians 2:16

Passage Review Questions
Galatians Chapters 3 -4

What foolish things was the Galatian church doing? (3:2-5)

What was credited to Abraham as righteousness? (3:6)

Can a man be saved by obeying the law? (3:10-11)

How many “seeds” of Abraham contain the plan of salvation?
(3:16)

According to verse 22, who in the world has committed sins?
(3:22)

What was intended to lead people to Christ? (3:24)

When a person becomes a Christian, what is his/her relationship
to God? (3:26)

According to verse 5, why did God send Jesus? (4:5)

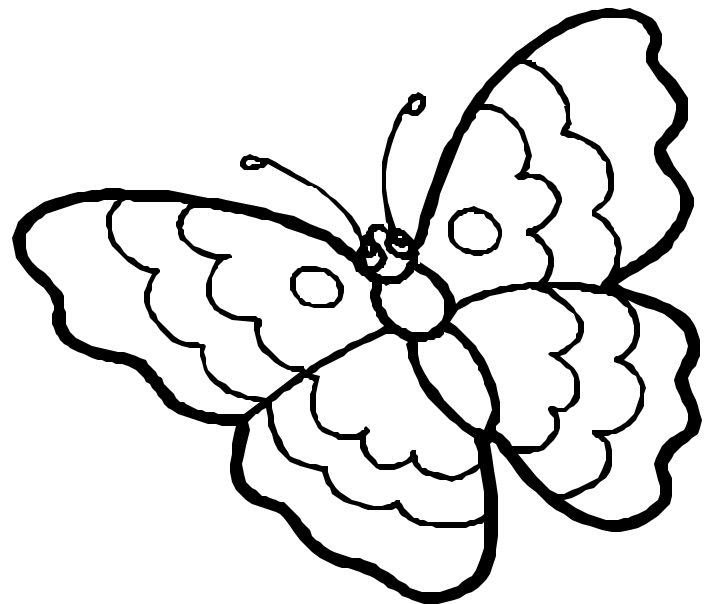
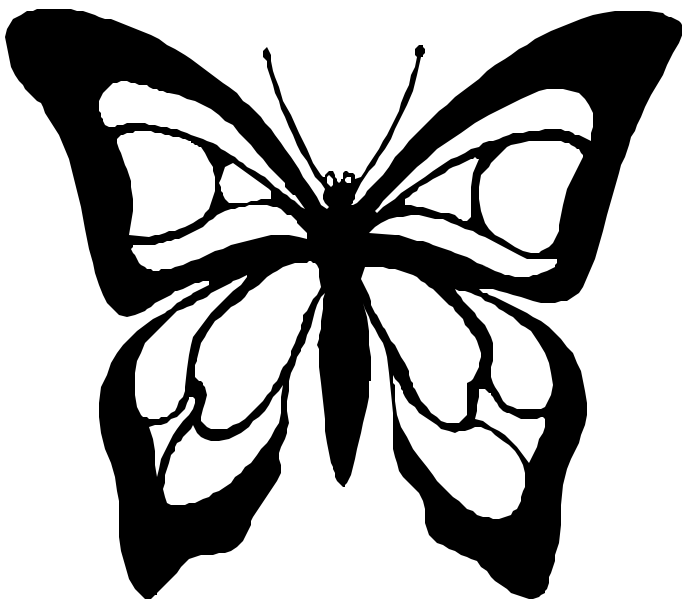
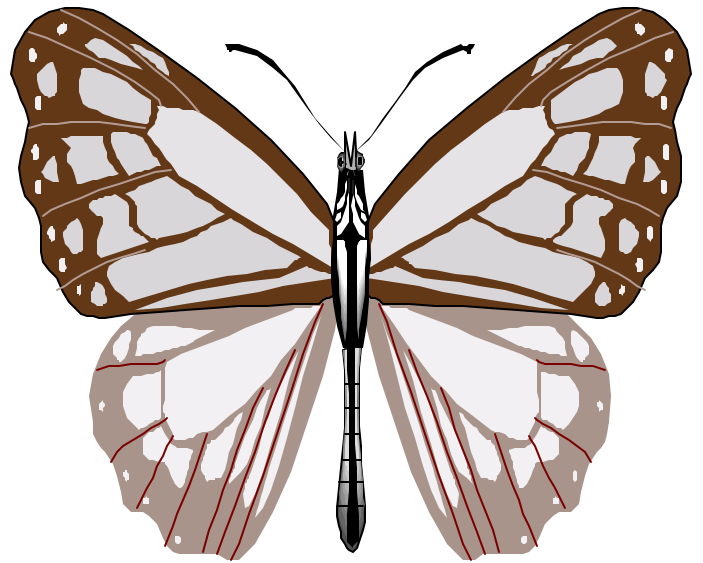
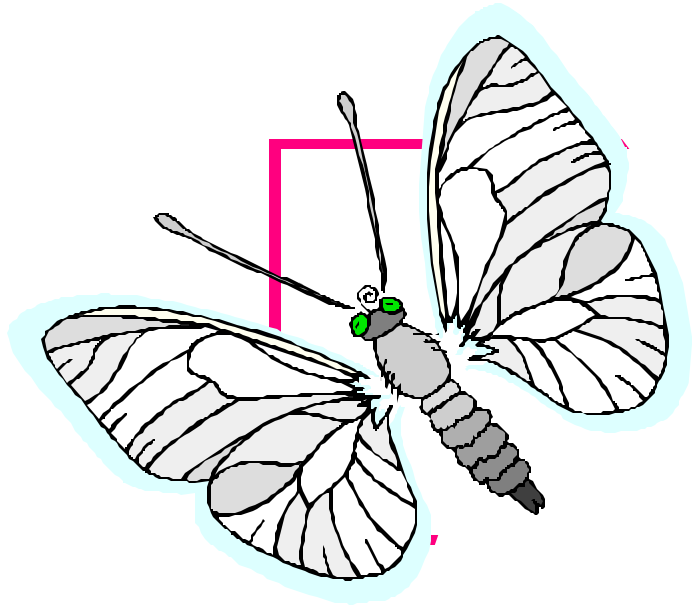
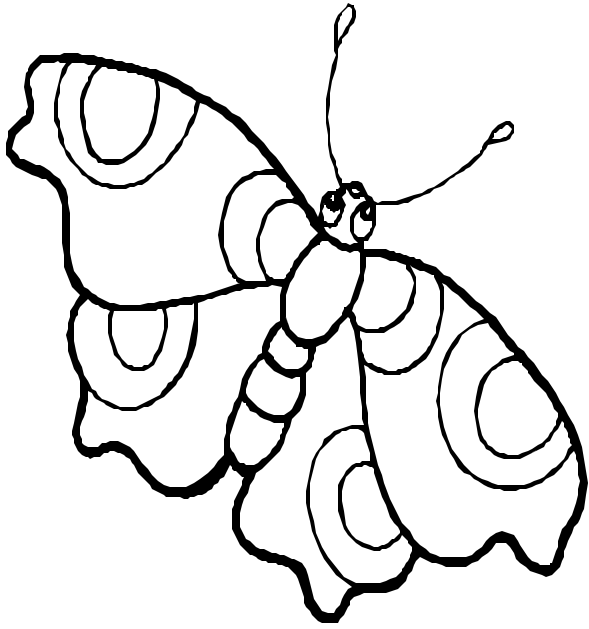
Who does God immediately send into a person's heart when he

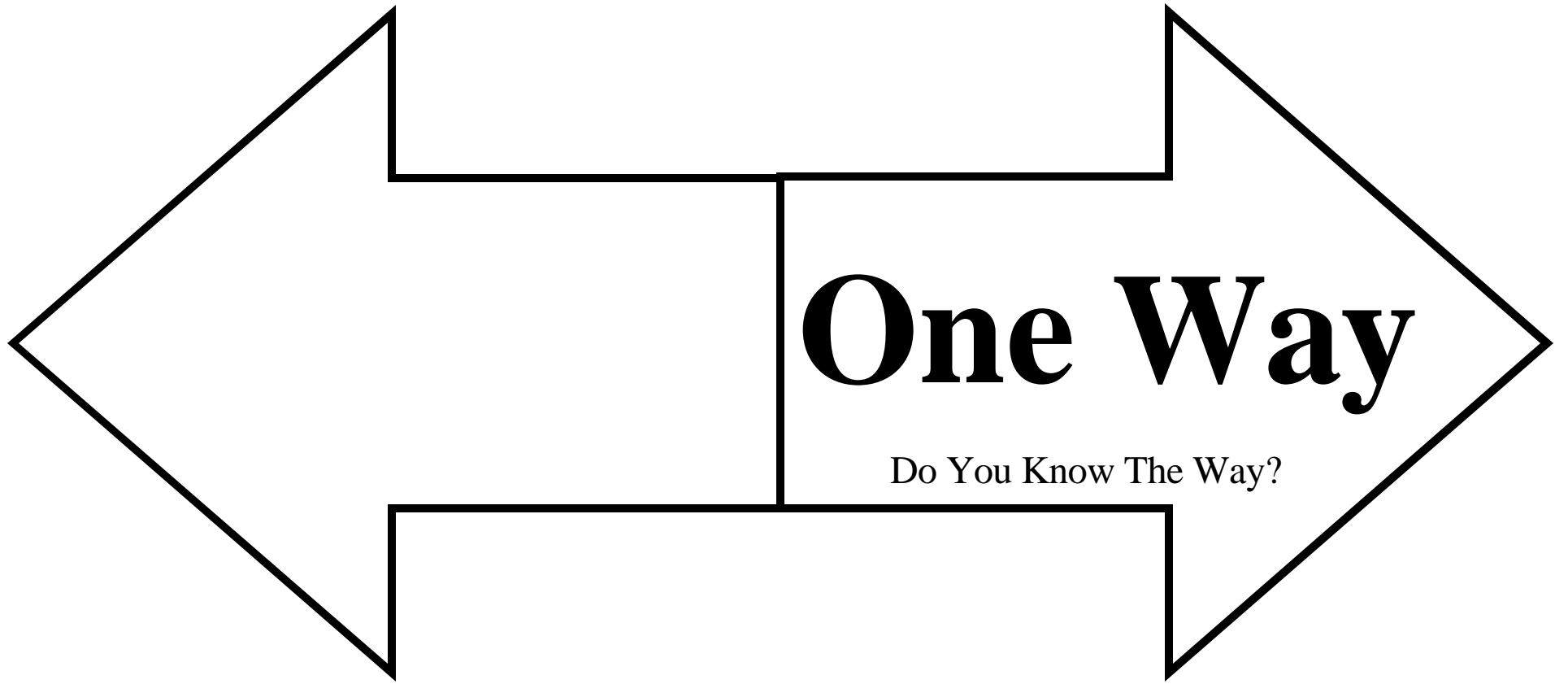
or she becomes a believer? (4:6)

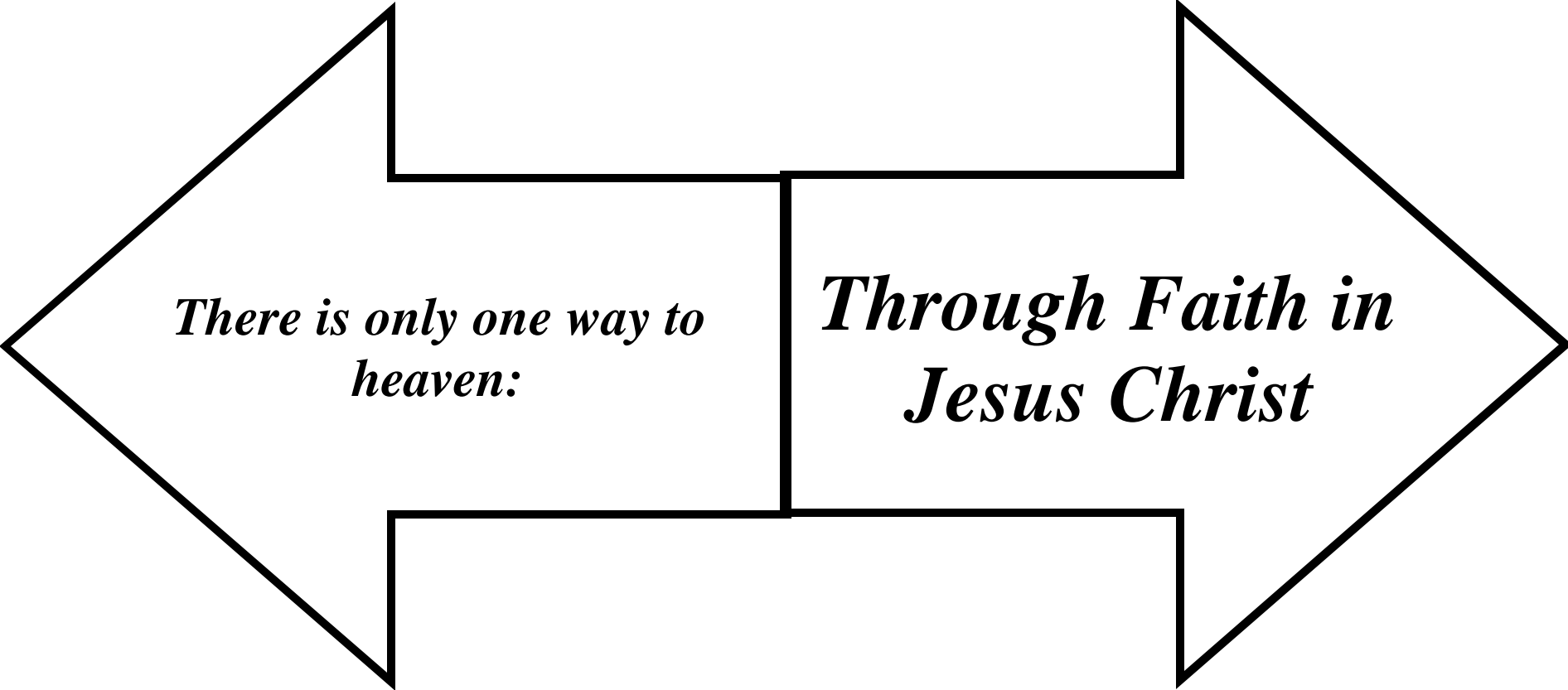
What were some other foolish things that the Galatian church
was doing? (4: 9-10)

How did the Galatians treat Paul the first time that he came to
them? (4:14)

Why were the false teachers trying to get the Galatian church to
believe lies? (4:17)





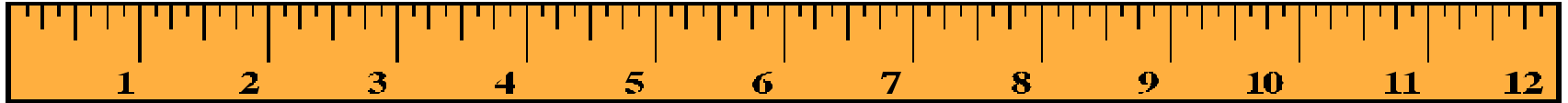


*There is only one way to
heaven:*

*Through Faith in
Jesus Christ*

Sometimes we don't really think of ourselves as sinners--especially compared to others we know.

HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?



| | |
|------|--|
| MON | |
| TUES | |
| WED | |
| THUR | |
| FRI | |
| SAT | |
| SUN | |

“Know that man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.” Galatians 2:16

GAL03.GF13

CHALLENGE:

The Bible says we are **all** sinners. Only God is sinless, righteous, and perfect. Each day this week, put a ruler mark in the space provided each time you sin. If you are honest in your evaluation, you will see that you are indeed a sinner in need of Christ!