



# FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

## YEAR 2

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# WELCOME TO *Generations of Grace*



This curriculum has been designed to deepen your own study of God's word so that you might be able to properly understand and accurately teach each lesson. It's our prayer that this curriculum would be a blessing to your ministry and home as God uses it to encourage your family.



## Share the Lesson

- **Five-Day Devotionals** – Guides the family through the Generations of Grace lesson, a cross-reference passage, and a passage about Christ to lead the family through the whole counsel of God.
- **Generations of Grace Passages** – Reinforces the lesson that your child learned in Sunday School.
- **Cross-Reference Passage** – Points to another passage that reinforces the central truth of each week's lesson.
- **Christ-Centered Passage** – Connects each week's lesson to Jesus Christ and to the gospel.
- **Explain** – Communicates the truth of each day to the parent's heart and mind to prepare them to lead their child through the passage.
- **Ask** – Foster greater interaction between parent and children whether they're 3 years old or 11 years old.
- **Discuss** – Enable the conversation about the truth to progress to a deeper level.

## Additional Resources

Use these additional resources to help support your lessons and to knit together the church and the home, ensuring that what is taught on Sunday matches what is learned throughout the week.

- **Coloring Book**
- **Craft Book**
- **Activity Book**
- **Student Journal**
- **Teacher Book**

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# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## WEEK 1

### God requires obedience

Deuteronomy 4:1–40



## DAY 1

Obey God's law in order to be blessed • Deuteronomy 4:1–8

### READ

Deuteronomy 4:1–8

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Deuteronomy 4:1–8

For 40 years Moses had faithfully led the Israelites. Can you imagine how worried Israel must have been as Moses was about to die, right before the huge task of conquering Canaan? So to encourage them, Moses pointed Israel to their true leader, the LORD. On the plains of Moab, Moses taught the people and passed on the covenant to the next generation. He urged the people to obey God's commands in order to live (4:1). Their obedience could not earn them a place as God's people, since God had already made them His own when He redeemed them from Egypt. But Moses urged Israel to obey as the right response to God's grace. It is good to obey because disobedience leads to judgment (4:3–4; Num 25:1–9) and obedience leads to blessing: (1) life (Deut 4:1); (2) wisdom (4:6; Ps 19:7); (3) nearness to God (Deut 4:7; John 15:10); and (4) righteousness (Deut 4:8; Ps 19:9). By keeping God's commands, Israel would also draw other nations to God's word (Deut 4:6), fulfilling their destiny to be a blessing to all nations (Gen 12:3; John 4:22).

### ASK

1. What did Moses tell the people of Israel to do?  
*He told them to listen carefully and obey God's commands.*
2. What do obedience and disobedience lead to?  
*Obedience leads to blessing, but disobedience leads to punishment.*
3. What are some of the blessings of obedience?  
*Those who obey enjoy full life, wisdom, nearness to God, and righteousness.*
4. Can we be saved by our obedience (Eph 2:1–9)?  
*No. We are saved by God's grace, just like Israel was redeemed from Egypt by God's grace.*

### DISCUSS

1. What does God save people for (Eph 2:10; 1 Pet 2:9–12)? Is this what you live for?
2. Obedience marks the life of every believer. Does it mark yours (1 John 3:10)?

## DAY 2

Do not forget God's word by turning to idols •  
Deuteronomy 4:9–31

### READ

Deuteronomy 4:9–31

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Deuteronomy 4:9–31

It can be hard to believe in someone we cannot see. Because we cannot see God, we are easily tempted to worship visible things in the place of the invisible God. But God is present with us through His word, not through a visible form (Deut 4:10, 12–14). So we should not try to worship God through images (Deut 4:15–16). We must flee from **idolatry**, from devoting ourselves to the physical things of this world instead of to God alone. This is very important, because God is a consuming fire (4:24). He is **jealous**: He will not share His glory with an idol. That is scary to think of, because we have all committed idolatry. But we can still have hope, because God is gracious. He is faithful even when His people are not (4:31). He would show Israel how miserable it is to worship idols (4:28; Judg 10:14). This would provoke them to repent and seek Yahweh from a sincere heart (4:29). As a result, they will one day be finally restored when they turn to Jesus as their Messiah (4:30; Matt 23:39; Rom 11:25–29).

### ASK

1. What did Moses say would happen if they disobeyed?  
*They would be punished, and many of them would even die.*
2. What were the Israelites supposed to teach their children?  
*They were supposed to teach their children God's word and the amazing experience at Mt Sinai. The way to have a relationship with God is through His word.*
3. Did the Israelites see God at Mt Sinai?  
*No. They saw fire and thick, dark cloud, but they only heard His voice.*

### DISCUSS

1. What is "idolatry"?
2. Can you think of ways you have committed idolatry by loving something else, especially things you can see and feel, more than God?

## DAY 3

Be in awe of the Lawgiver, for there is none like Him •  
Deuteronomy 4:32–40

### READ

Deuteronomy 4:32–40

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Deuteronomy 4:32–40

Do you realize how amazing God is? Moses challenged Israel to answer for themselves, because they had experienced what God was like. No other god has so powerfully rescued any nation (Deut 4:33–35). No other God has spoken out loud to a nation (4:32, 36). God deserves complete obedience because of the amazing things He has done. And the most amazing thing is His love, which He pours out on people who

do not deserve it (4:37). God's actions are awesome, and they prove that He is the only God, the only One able to give life and blessing, and the only One worthy of obedience (4:39–40; Jude 1:25). If you are a Christian, you have also experienced what God is like. God has chosen you in love in order to bless you beyond imagination (Eph 1:3–6). This blessing comes by faith, the kind of faith that produces obedience (Eph 2:8–10). So are you in awe of God's worth? Are you thankful for His blessing on those who live out His purpose? And do you respond by joyfully obeying God's commands (1 Pet 1:9–12)?

**DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

**ASK** 

1. How did Moses conclude his speech?  
*By reminding Israel of how remarkable their God is.*
2. Why did God choose Israel?  
*He chose Israel not because of their value, but because of His great love (Deut 4:37).*
3. What produces obedience to God?  
*Faith (Eph 2:8–10).*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Make a list of amazing things about God. Praise Him for these things.
2. When you are thankful for what God has done for you, how does that change your attitude and behavior (Eph 5:3–5; 1 Pet 1:9–12)?

**DAY 4***Obedience is the key to experiencing God's blessing • John 15:1–11***READ** 

John 15:1–17

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of John 15:1–11**

Jesus used the metaphor of the vine and branches to show us how Christians live. Christians have spiritual life because they are like branches growing out of Jesus, who is the true vine (15:1, 5). The branches get their sap and life from the vine. They are also taken care of by God, who is the vinedresser. But there are two types of branches: (1) real Christians (those who bear fruit), and (2) false Christians (those who do not bear fruit). Branches without fruit are not actually drawing life from the vine. They do not have real salvation (15:2). These false Christians will be judged, like branches being cut off and burned (15:6; Matt 7:16–20; Rev 20:10–15). But true believers show their salvation through obedience, just like we know branches are connected to the vine because they have fruit (John 15:7–10). Believers still sin, but they cannot fall away and will grow and bear more and more fruit (Matt 13:23; Gal 5:22–23). Their obedience is the result of staying in God's love, and this obedience glorifies God and leads to joy (John 15:11).

**ASK** 

1. Who did Jesus identify as the “true vine”?  
*Himself (John 15:1).*
2. How do you know who is a real Christian?  
*They obey, like a branch bearing fruit because it is connected to the vine.*
3. How do you know who is not really a Christian?  
*They do not obey, like a branch without fruit because it is not connected.*
4. If you don't have spiritual fruit, what should you do?  
*Not just try harder. Cry out to God: only He can connect you to Jesus.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Ask your parents if they see spiritual fruit in your life, and listen humbly?
2. What does it mean to abide in Christ (Gal 5:16–25; Phil 2:12–13)?



## DAY 5

Christ's obedience brought about eternal life for His people •  
Romans 5:15–21

### READ

Romans 5:1–21

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Romans 5:15–21

Moses told Israel to obey so that they would live. But who obeys perfectly? Even little babies are naturally disobedient and selfish! This is because Adam, the first man, brought sin and death to all humans (Rom 5:19). Adam died spiritually the moment he sinned against God. He also began to die physically too, even though He did not die right away (5:15, 17). His sin resulted in eternal death for him and for all who come after him (5:16–17). But there is good news! Jesus is the second Adam. While Adam caused death, Jesus restores and offers eternal life. While Adam made us all sinful, Jesus makes all believers righteous. While Adam made humans slaves to sin, Jesus gives believers victory over sin (5:16, 19). This is because Jesus' obedience counts for all believers, just like Adam's sin counted for all people. Jesus' perfect righteousness counts as the believer's own righteousness, so if you believe, you can live, now and forever (5:21). How can you live even though you have not obeyed like Moses said? Because Jesus obeyed for you.

### ASK

1. Who brought sin and death to all mankind?  
*Adam, the first man, (Rom 5:19).*
2. Who is the second Adam?  
*Jesus.*
3. Why is Jesus called the second Adam?  
*Jesus' obedience is imputed to all believers. "Imputed" means that His righteousness counts as the believer's own righteousness.*

### DISCUSS

1. Why don't little children need to be taught how to sin?
2. Make a list of all the things Jesus suffered without sin so that we can have life if we believe in Him. Thank Him for doing this for us.

## NEXT WEEK

God calls Israel  
to love through  
obedience

*Deuteronomy 6:4–9*



# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## WEEK 2

### God calls Israel to love through obedience

Deuteronomy 6:4–9



## DAY 1

Devotion to God alone • Deuteronomy 6:4

### READ

Deuteronomy 6:4–9

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Deuteronomy 6:4

This passage is called the *shema*, which is Hebrew for the first word, “hear” or “listen” (Deut 6:4). When your parents tell you to listen, they also mean you should obey, don’t they? Same with this verse. Israel, and all believers with them, ought to listen to God and obey Him because He is “our” God (6:4). He is not a God who is far away and does not care about His people. He loves enough to choose them, save them, care for them, speak to them, and listen to their prayers. So we don’t obey to try to earn salvation. Instead, we obey because He has already changed us (Eph 2:1–10). We obey because we love our Savior. Another reason why Israel needed to listen to God is because God is one. That means He alone is God (Isa 40:25; Zech 14:9). When we say, “The LORD is our God, the LORD alone” (Deut 6:4), we are pledging allegiance to love the LORD alone and obey Him alone. So we listen and obey God alone because He is our God and He is the only God.

### ASK

1. What is the first command Moses gave? “Hear.” Moses told Israel to listen and obey.
2. How many Gods are there?  
*There is only one God.*
3. What does it mean when Israel said that the LORD is “our” God?  
*It means that God had already chosen and rescued them from Egypt. They were to love and obey God not to earn God’s favor, but out of love for His kindness.*
4. What does it mean that the LORD is one?  
*It means that He is the only God, and the one who deserves our undivided devotion.*

### DISCUSS

1. Why does God deserve your obedience?
2. Why do you obey God?

## DAY 2

Devotion with all of your being • Deuteronomy 6:5

### READ

Deuteronomy 6:4–9

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Deuteronomy 6:5

Moses commands us to love God because God has already made us His own (Deut 7:6–8; 1 John 4:19). This command shows us that love is a choice (Deut 6:5). It is not just an emotion that we fall into or fall out of. **Love is loyalty, a choice to actively live for God.** It is fearing, serving, obeying, and holding fast to God (7:9; 10:12; 11:13; 30:6, 20; John 15:10). Your love for God should be all-encompassing (Deut 6:5). First, you must love Him with all our heart. This means being loyal to Him in the way you think, the way you feel, and the choices you make. Second, you must love God with all our soul. This means loving Him with all your energy, all your being, all of who you are as a person. Third, you must love God with all your might. This means loving Him with all your abilities and resources, and doing this to the fullest. Do you love God like this? Is God your greatest love in all of life (Ps 27:4)?

### ASK

1. What is the greatest commandment?  
*Love the LORD your God.*
2. What does it mean to love God?  
*To choose to actively live for God—fearing, serving, and holding fast to God, obeying His commandments, and keeping His word.*
3. How much should we love God?  
*Very much. With our whole self and all our energy.*
4. How are we to love God?  
*With all our heart (understanding, feelings, and decisions), all our soul (all of who we are as a person), and all our might (all of our abilities and resources to the fullest).*

### DISCUSS

1. When you hear people talking about love, do they mean the same thing God means?
2. Make a list of ways you can love God with your thoughts, emotions, attitudes, decisions, body, and possessions.

## DAY 3

Devotion through God's word • Deuteronomy 6:6–9

### READ

Deuteronomy 6:4–9

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Deuteronomy 6:6–9

Since we love God by keeping His commands, we need to know what God has commanded. So if you love God, you will also love God's word, because it shows you how to love God. God's word must be in your heart, which means it should be at the center of your thoughts and desires (Deut 6:6). God's word is so important that it is the most important thing for

your parents to teach you (6:7a). Teaching children to love God is like chiseling God's word on granite. It is tiring work, and your parents must be consistent and patient. But their hard work is worth it if God's word becomes permanently imprinted on your heart, so that you love God and find life in Him. Then, like your parents, you will speak God's word all the time and in every aspect of life (6:7b). This is because your words show what is in your heart (Matt 12:34). If you love God, you will strive to make God's word the thing that controls your actions (hands), thoughts (foreheads), homes (doorposts), and community (gates) (6:8–9).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. Why does Moses talk about God's word right after the command to love God?  
*Because God's word helps our hearts love God and shows us how to love God.*
2. Where should we keep God's word?  
*In our hearts. That means we understand God's word, love God's word, and obey God's word.*
3. What is your parents' most important job?  
*To teach God's word to their children very diligently.*
4. Since words show what is in your heart, what should your speech be like?  
*We should be talking about God's word all the time, everywhere, in all sorts of activities.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. What are some ways your parents teach you God's word? How can you encourage them as they do this?
2. Do God's words come out of you? Make a list of ordinary activities where you can speak God's word.

**DAY 4***A passionate love for God's word • Psalm 119:97-104***READ** 

Psalm 119:97-104

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Psalm 119:97-104**

Psalm 119 shows us a passionate love for God's word. It is the longest psalm, because God's word is so important. If you love God, you will love God's word because it fuels your spiritual life and helps you stay loyal to God. As you meditate on God's word every day, God uses it to teach you (Ps 119:97, 102). It takes discipline, because our hearts can grow cold, and we need God's help to understand how good it is (119:18). But in the end, if you love God, this daily meditation is not tiring or boring; instead, it is tasty like honey, and even sweeter than honey (119:103). When you carefully study God's law, you will also find true wisdom. God's word is able to make you very wise, wiser than your enemies (119:98), wiser than your teachers (119:99), and wiser than people much older than you (119:100). When you love God's word, study God's word, and find wisdom in God's word, you will love to keep yourself holy and separate from sin, because you will love to please God (119:101-104).

**ASK** 

1. How often does the author of this psalm think about God's word?  
*All the time.*
2. How do the words of God's law "taste"?  
*Sweet; sweeter than honey.*
3. What does careful study of God's word produce in a Christian?  
*Very great wisdom.*
4. If you love God's word, study God's word, and get wisdom from God's word, how will you want to live?  
*We will want to live a holy life, separate from sin and pleasing to God.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Do you know someone who really enjoys God's word like sweet honey? What is their life like?
2. What portion of the Bible have you been meditating on lately? What has it taught you? How has it affected your wisdom, your love, and your life?

# DAY 5

The word of Christ must richly dwell in believers • Colossians 3:16

## READ

Colossians 3:1–4:1

## EXPLAIN

### The truth of Colossians 3:16

Moses told Israel that God's word must be always filling them and coming out of their mouths. The same is true for you if you are a Christian. Scripture should fill your every thought, word, and deed, because the word of Christ is to dwell in you richly (Col 3:16). Think how much better hot chocolate is when it is thick and rich than when it is thin and watered down! That is how God's word should be in you. Then, just as Moses said, if God's word dwells in you richly, it will bless you and also flow out from you to richly bless others. Do you teach others to know, love, and obey God's word? Do you admonish others by wisely warning them about the consequences of their actions? Does God's word put a song in your heart, one that also encourages the people around you? Let God's word fill you so that you can bless the people around you. Let it also fill you with thankfulness, and cause you to live an obedient life devoted to God (3:17–4:1).

## ASK

1. How much should the word of Christ fill you?  
*It should fill us richly.*
2. When Christ's word fills you richly, will it affect the people around you?  
*Yes. They will be blessed as God's word flows from us to teach, warn, and encourage.*
3. When Christ's word fills you richly, how will it change your attitude and your life?  
*It will give us thankful attitudes and obedient lives.*

## DISCUSS

1. Can you think of someone who has richly blessed you because they love God's word? How can you do the same for others?
2. If you struggle with complaining or disobedience, what does this show about God's word in your life?

## NEXT WEEK

God promises to bless or curse

Deuteronomy 28:1–68



# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## WEEK 3

### God promises to bless or curse

Deuteronomy 28:1–68



## DAY 1

The principles of blessing and cursing • Deuteronomy 28:1–2, 13–15, 20

### READ

Deuteronomy 28:1–2, 13–15, 20

### EXPLAIN

The truth of Deuteronomy 28:1–2, 13–15, 20

We all want to be blessed, but how do you find blessing? Don't look to yourself or to the world's ideas for blessing, because God is the one who blesses and curses (28:1, 20; Isa 45:7). Also, don't expect blessing if you are being disobedient. Even though salvation depends wholly on God's grace, you will not feel the  **blessings**  of salvation unless you obey God's commands by faith (Deut 28:1–2, 13–14). That's because  happiness, success, and good gifts from God  are the natural result of submitting to God (30:20). But if you disobey, you will get  **curses**  instead of blessing (Deut 28:15, 20).  Sadness, failure, and trouble from God  are the natural result of trying to live in a way you were not designed to live. It's like trying to use a tool for something it wasn't made for: it doesn't work and things break. But if you belong to God, even the curses are a blessing. God's curses help you see the horribleness of sin and life without Him, so that you run back to God (30:1–3; Hos 6:1–3).

### ASK

1. Who is the one who blesses and curses?  
*God does. He blesses to show His goodness to His people, and He curses to restore them to Himself.*
2. What does obedience lead to?  
*Obedience leads to blessing.*
3. What does disobedience lead to?  
*Disobedience leads to curses.*
4. Is your salvation based on your obedience?  
*No. Salvation depends on God's grace alone. But we don't feel the joy of salvation when we are disobeying.*

### DISCUSS

1. What are some wrong ways people in this world try to find happiness?
2. How does God use your parents to bless you for obedience or curse you for disobedience?

## DAY 2

### God blesses obedience • Deuteronomy 28:1–14

#### READ

Deuteronomy 28:1–14

#### EXPLAIN

##### The truth of Deuteronomy 28:1–14

If Israel obeyed, they would become greater than all other nations (Deut 28:1). Israel would enjoy power, leadership, and independence among the nations (28:13). They would experience many physical blessings: victory over enemies (28:7), successful work (28:8), wealth, fruitfulness, and plenty of rain (28:11–12). They would also enjoy spiritual blessing: they would be God's holy people (28:9), and their good reputation would honor God (28:10). One day this will come true when many nations come to the Jews in order to meet Israel's God (Zech 8:23). Some of these blessings relate only to Israel as God's special nation, but many also apply to you if you are a Christian. While success on earth is not guaranteed, obedience often leads to earthly success (Prov 16:3). Also, as you obey by faith, you will surely enjoy the spiritual blessings of holiness (1 John 1:7), closeness to God (John 15:10), and heavenly reward (Eph 6:8). And like Israel, your light will shine so that others glorify God (Matt 5:16).

#### ASK

1. What are some physical blessings God promised if Israel obeyed?  
*Power, leadership, independence, victory, good work, land, children, animals, and food.*
2. What are some spiritual blessings God promised if Israel obeyed?  
*Honor, holiness, and closeness to God.*
3. Can you expect these same blessings?  
*Some aspects only apply to Israel. But we can expect the blessings of holiness, closeness to God, heavenly reward, and the opportunity to honor God, and often success on earth too.*

#### DISCUSS

1. Make a list of blessings you or your family have experienced, and thank God for them.
2. Read Matthew 5:16 and identify how obedience glorifies God.

## DAY 3

### God curses disobedience • Deuteronomy 28:15–68

#### READ

Deuteronomy 28:15–68

#### EXPLAIN

##### The truth of Deuteronomy 28:15–68

Disobedience strips away blessing in every area of life (Deut 28:16–19). Fruitfulness turns to poverty, honor to shame, victory to defeat, and redemption back to slavery in Egypt. These horrible curses show that it is a really bad idea to turn away from the God of life. But in these curses there is still hope. A few Israelites would survive, and one day a remnant will turn to God with all

their heart (30:1–2). They will be forgiven, restored, and given new hearts and new life (30:3–6; Rom 11). They will be like dry, cracked ground renewed by gentle rain (Hos 6:3). This applies to you too. When you lose sight of your redemption in Christ, you begin living as if you were a slave of sin again (Gal 5:7, 19–20). You create needless trouble (Prov 13:21; Jas 4:1–3) and do not enjoy God's presence (Isa 59:2). Not all suffering is the result of sin (Job 1:1), but when it is, you must repent quickly. If you never turn from your sin, you do not belong to God at all (Gal 5:21).

**DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

**ASK** 

1. What are some ways God promised to curse Israel's disobedience?  
*He would take away children, animals, food, health, rain, victory, land, life, reputation, and freedom.*
2. Sometimes it seems easier to disobey. But in the end, is disobedience really easier?  
*No. Disobedience leads to a miserable, cursed life.*
3. How does God curse disobedience today?  
*When we disobey, we cause needless trouble, we stop enjoying God's presence, sin gains power over us, and if we never repent, we will not go to heaven at all.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Can you think the last time you were unhappy? Was it at all because you were disobedient, either in your attitude or your actions?
2. Is suffering always the result of sin (Job 1:1)?

**DAY 4***Jesus offers true happiness • Matthew 5:1–12***READ** 

Matthew 5:1–12

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Matthew 5:1–12**

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus preached the Beatitudes, or Blessings. He offers true happiness. He's not talking about the shallow kind of happiness that comes or goes depending on your circumstances. He's talking about the inward happiness, joy, and contentment that stays with you even when things around you seem to go wrong (Phil 4:11–13). But at first, the Beatitudes don't seem to make sense. Is the happy person really the one who is poor, mourning, giving up his rights, longing, caring for others instead of himself, denying his lusts, not fighting back, and suffering persecution? Aren't the happy ones those who are rich, look good, do what they want, and get their way? Jesus turns the world's thinking upside down. His way to happiness, which is the only way to true happiness, requires much more than a changing your circumstances or even your behavior. Do you want true happiness? Then you need a new heart, a new birth, and new life that only Jesus can give (John 3:3). Yes, obedience leads to blessing, but true obedience can only come from a heart made new by God.

**ASK** 

1. What kind of happiness does Jesus offer?  
*Happiness that lasts and does not depend on what happens around us.*
2. Why do not the Beatitudes make sense at first?  
*The person they describe doesn't seem happy. He is mourning and suffering!*
3. Who does the world think is happy?  
*The world says that people who seem to have it all figured out are happy.*
4. How can you get real happiness?  
*Only by being born again. You must cry out to God, because only He can do that.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. What are some things that you or your friends want? Do these things make you happy? What kind of happiness do these things bring you?
2. Read Luke 18:10–18. Is the happy person the one who seems to do everything right, or the one broken by sin and trusting God's mercy?



## DAY 5

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law • Galatians 3:10–14

### READ

Galatians 3:1–29

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Galatians 3:10–14

When Moses said that blessing comes from obedience, many Jews thought that meant that a person was saved based on his own obedience. But from the beginning salvation was based on faith in God's grace, not on obedience to the law (Gal 3:14). Abraham was declared righteous before he was commanded to be circumcised and more than 500 years before God revealed His law to Israel (Gen 15:6). So Abraham was not saved by obeying the law. Also, if salvation comes through obeying the law, then everyone is cursed, because no one can obey it (Deut 27:26). So if you try to get saved by working hard enough or being good enough, then you will be cursed like the legalistic Jews, because you cannot keep the whole law (Jas 2:10). Then how can you be saved and enjoy the blessings God promised to Abraham (Gal 3:14)? By believing that Jesus took upon Himself the curse that you deserve for disobeying the law (3:13). Don't depend on your works. Depend only on Christ's work for you, for your salvation rests in God's grace alone (Rom 4:16).

### ASK

1. Was Abraham justified by faith or by the law?  
*By faith. Abraham was declared righteous before he was commanded to be circumcised and before God revealed His law to Israel.*
2. Why does the law bring a curse?  
*Because no one can keep it perfectly.*
3. Why is salvation by faith alone?  
*Because this is the only way it can depend on God's grace alone, not on our works.*
4. What did Jesus do to redeem you from the curse of the law?  
*He bore our sin on the cross and died in our place.*

### DISCUSS

1. Have you ever thought, "I just need to be a better person, then I will be saved?" What is wrong with that thinking?
2. How would you explain to your friend what faith is?

## NEXT WEEK

### God calls Joshua to be His servant

Joshua 1:1–9

