

Loving the “Weighed Down”

Main Verses: Galatians 6:2

Key Verse: Galatians 6:2

'Takeaway': If we love Jesus, then we are called to love other Christians, especially when they are 'weighed down'.

Getting Started: What do you think of when you hear the phrase “burden-bearer?”

READ the main verses (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What is the “law of Christ?” (refer back to Galatians 5:6, 13-14, and Mark 12:30-31) Who are our neighbors?
- How has Jesus shown us that he loves us?
- How can you love others, and especially when they are sad or having a hard time?

Elementary:

- What is the “law of Christ?” (refer back to Galatians 5:6, 13-14, and Mark 12:30-31) Who are our neighbors?
- What burdens of ours has Jesus borne?
- How can you bear the burden of others?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- The law of Christ is the law of love, or to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. It also refers to all of God’s commands, which Jesus came to fulfill.
- Jesus is the ultimate burden bearer, bearing our sins on the cross so that we can know and love Him.
- Helping others is something God has called us to do.

Elementary:

- The law of Christ is the law of love. In Mark 12:30-31, Jesus says the most important command is to love God completely—with all our being (heart, soul, mind, and strength) and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. The law of Christ also more generally refers to all of God’s commands, which Jesus came to fulfill on our behalf. Our faithful, covenant God asks us to love Him and love those He has created.
- Bearing, or carrying, one another’s burdens is imitating Christ, the ultimate burden bearer, who bore our sins and the curse of the law on the cross for us.
- We honor God and His entire law when we bear other’s burdens.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God, thanking Him for sending Jesus to bear our sins so we can know Him. Talk to Him about how you can help bear someone’s burden this week, perhaps thinking of a specific person who you can love in a special way.

(Elementary) Talk to God, thanking Him for sending Jesus to bear our sins and the curse of the law so that we can be rescued by Him into relationship with Him. Ask Him how you can imitate His burden bearing by helping to bear someone else’s burden this week, perhaps thinking of a specific person you can love in that special way.