

JESUS FREES US FROM THE NEED FOR APPROVAL

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FREES US FROM THE NEED FOR APPROVAL

1 Thessalonians 2:4; Romans 2:29; 1 Corinthians 10:33; Ephesians 6:6

BIBLE VERSE: GALATIANS 1:10; 2:4-6

“For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

“Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me.”

BIG IDEAS

- Apart from Jesus, we live for the approval of others.
- Jesus sets us free from approval by giving us a new identity.
- Servants of Jesus live for God’s approval.

BIBLE PASSAGE: GALATIANS 1:11-2:14

UNITE: LIVING IN FREEDOM

The Unite year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are brought into the family of God- seen throughout the Old Testament as “God’s People” and in the New Testament and today as the church (Exodus 6:7; Colossians 1:18). We are set free from our sin to walk in freedom in Christ (Galatians 5:1) and use our influence to call others to do the same.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know...

- True freedom is only found in being a servant of Jesus
- We are set free not to do whatever we want, but to live for Christ



Every student should feel...

- Grateful for Christ who sets us free
- Convicted of the ways that they are ruled by the desires of their flesh
- Responsible to use their influence to make much of God alone



Every student should strive to...

- Read through the book of Galatians each week
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Deny the desires of their flesh to walk in step with the Spirit



Every student should want...

- See the ways that they are tempted to pursue self-salvation, and repent of these
- Live for the approval of God, not others
- Help others move out of slavery to sin toward freedom in Christ

FAMILY WORKOUT:

This week we will ponder how to discuss with our son or daughter the truth that Jesus sets them free from the need for approval as His servants. We will pray for them to understand the freedom they have in Him as we lead them to practice living as His servants in the body of Christ.

JESUS FREES US FROM THE NEED FOR APPROVAL



Read Galatians 1:11-2:14 this week and answer the questions below in your journal:

- What does Paul share about his testimony? What does this reveal about the work of the Lord in the lives of His children?
- How does Paul discern the ones who are “false brothers”?
- What does it mean when Paul says that “we did not yield in submission even for a moment”? Why does he do this?
- How did the apostles see that Paul had been entrusted with the same gospel as Peter?
- How do you see Paul being freed from the need for man’s approval?

Read and meditate on Galatians 1:11-2:14 this week. Use the questions below to guide your meditation:

- Consider Paul’s reflection in 1:24, “and they glorified God because of me.” How can you help your son or daughter live a life where they could say this about the people around them?
- How can you help your student think about ways in their life that they are tempted to yield in submission to others? How can you model standing firm on the truth of the gospel?
- Discuss with your student the truth that you have a new identity in Christ. How does this new identity keep you from needing approval from other people?



Pray for your son or daughter this week.

- Ask God to guide them to live in the freedom from approval that Jesus has purchased for them.
- Pray with your student this week. Ask God to help them understand the freedom they have as servants of Jesus.



Memorize Galatians 1:10 and 2:4-6 this week with your son or daughter.

- Write the verses on an index card and review them daily.
- Set aside time this week to discuss the trap of seeking man’s approval with your son or daughter. Share times that you have fallen into this trap. Show your son or daughter verses that have helped you overcome this trap and that have helped you walk in the freedom Christ has purchased for you.
- Meet with your student to discuss some of the ways that he or she can serve in the body of Christ this week. Discuss how service can be a way to live free of the need for approval.