This week we learned all the good things we do cannot save us. We are saved by faith, not by works. The verse for the week is Romans 3:28. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Please take 5-10 minutes each day to recite the verse with your child, discuss the questions for the day, and pray with them.

**Goin’ Home**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Have you ever worked really hard to get something? Allow answers</strong></td>
<td><strong>When you do something well and are rewarded for it, how do you feel? Allow answers.</strong></td>
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<td>Maybe you worked hard for an allowance, or cleaned your room so you could go to McDonalds or watch a movie. Maybe if you acted especially good you would get a reward.</td>
<td>Do you feel like you deserve the reward? That you have earned it by your hard work or good behavior?</td>
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<td>There are many times in our life that this happens. When you get older you will probably have a job. As you do your job you will earn money, money to pay your bills, by you food, etc. It isn’t necessarily a bad thing.</td>
<td>Are you proud of the good work you did? Is this a bad feeling or good feeling? Allow answers</td>
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<td>It is good to work extra hard or to behave well. In fact, the Bible tells us to. Read Colossians 3:23</td>
<td>It is normal to feel pleased when you do something good and are rewarded. But you must be careful. Have you ever known anyone that was too proud? They felt they deserved all the good that happened to them because they were so good. Maybe they even bragged and showed off.</td>
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<td>How are we to work? Heartily. This means hard. This verse also says we are to work understanding we work for the Lord even as we work for other people. Working hard, acting good is important.</td>
<td>The truth is all we have is a gift from God. Our abilities, our family, our health, our stuff…everything. We have because He blesses us with what we have.</td>
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<td>And there are times when we earn reward, money, or praise for hard work. But this should not be the main reason we do it. We should do the best we can because we want to honor God and please Him.</td>
<td>When we are too proud we tend to think we deserve and earned everything because we are so great. We forget all good things are gifts form God. Read James 1:16-17</td>
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<td><strong>Application:</strong> We should work hard to honor and please God.</td>
<td>If we become too proud we can fall into the trap of relying on ourselves instead of on God.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PRAY</strong> (thank God for the abilities He has given you and ask Him to help you use them well to honor Him)</td>
<td><strong>Application:</strong> Feeling proud can be a trap we must be careful of.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PRAY</strong> (ask God to protect you from feeling too proud. Give Him thanks and glory for what you have)</td>
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WEDNESDAY
People are used to earning things, working for things. Most people think it is the same with salvation. They must earn it by working hard and doing good. There is a problem with this. Read Ephesians 2:8-9

These verses say we are saved by faith, not by works (what we do). Our salvation is a gift from God. We cannot earn salvation. Why not? Reread verse

If we could earn salvation we could boast and brag. We wouldn’t need God at all. We would be self righteous. We would take the credit for our salvation and the glory due to God.

Application: Our salvation is a gift from God. We cannot earn it.

PRAV (thank God and give Him glory for salvation to all who believe in Jesus)

THURSDAY
Have you ever gotten an awesome Christmas or birthday present? How did you feel when you got it? Excited, right. Did you feel like you earned it and deserved it because it was your birthday or Christmas? I hope not! What if a parent surprises you with something nice for no reason at all, except that they love you?

Gifts are exciting because we know we didn’t earn them. We don’t deserve them. They are given to us because someone loves us. They didn’t have to give us a gift. They wanted to. It was their choice. Salvation is a gift also. A gift from God. Let’s read our verse from yesterday again. Read Ephesians 2:8-9.

This verse says we are saved by God’s grace. This means God did something for us He did not have to do. It is a gift from Him. We didn’t and cannot earn it.

Application: God can give us what we cannot earn.

PRAV (ask God to help you rely on His grace)

FRIDAY
Read Luke 189-14

There are two men. What is the Pharisee like? What does he rely on to have a relationship with God? Allow answers

How about the tax collector? What does he rely on to have a relationship with God? Allow answers

Which man does Jesus say will be justified, will be given a right relationship with God? Allow answers Why?

The person who humbles himself, who recognizes his sin and repents of it, who trusts in the mercy of God…that person is justified, is made right with God!

Application: Doing good works doesn’t make us right before God. Repenting of our sin and trusting in Jesus does.

PRAV (ask God to keep you humble. Ask Him to help you rely on Him and not the good things you do)

SATURDAY
Many people struggle with the truth that salvation cannot be earned. They want to believe they can be good enough. How good is good enough to be in God’s presence? It would require perfection! The Bible teaches, and we know we are not perfect. No one is perfectly good but God alone. He alone is Holy. No matter how good we are, we never are completely good. We cannot make it to heaven on our own. We make bad choices. We sin.

The Good News is that the Bible teaches us we can be saved from our sin. Salvation is freely given by God to all who believe Jesus is Lord, died on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sins, was raised again to life and will come again one day to make all things new and perfect.

What we cannot earn, Jesus has earned for us. He holds it out as a gift to us. It is a gift we each have the choice of receiving. This is the most important decision we will ever make!

Application: God holds out as a gift the salvation we cannot earn ourselves.

PRAV (thank God for the wonderful gift of salvation. Ask Him to help you understand it better.)