

May 12, 2013

Lesson 37: One in Christ

Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? Did you experience so much for nothing?—if it really was for nothing. Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

Just as Abraham 'believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness', so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.' For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.





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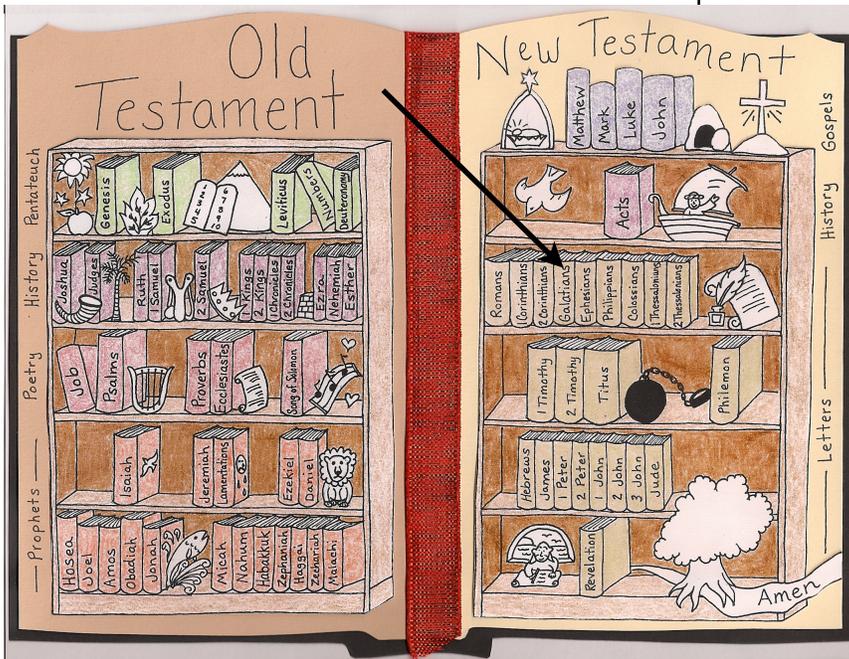
The Big Story Truth: In Christ Jesus, we are all made children of God through faith.

About This Scripture Passage: The Scripture passage today continues our reading of Paul's letter to the Galatians. Paul continues to address those arguing about what was necessary in order to be saved. Some thought it was by following the old testament laws. Paul asked

the new Christians to think about how it was that the Holy Spirit came into their lives. The Holy Spirit didn't wait for them to be circumcised or to start following every letter of the law. The Holy Spirit came because it was the gift of God- given by grace. After the Spirit arrives, faith is the sign of God's presence.

The good news in this Scripture reading is that it doesn't matter what we are- men or women, young or old, wealthy or poor, or any other status that could cause division. The gift of God's Spirit is for ALL of us.

God claims us all as part of the family of faith!



For Your Reflection:

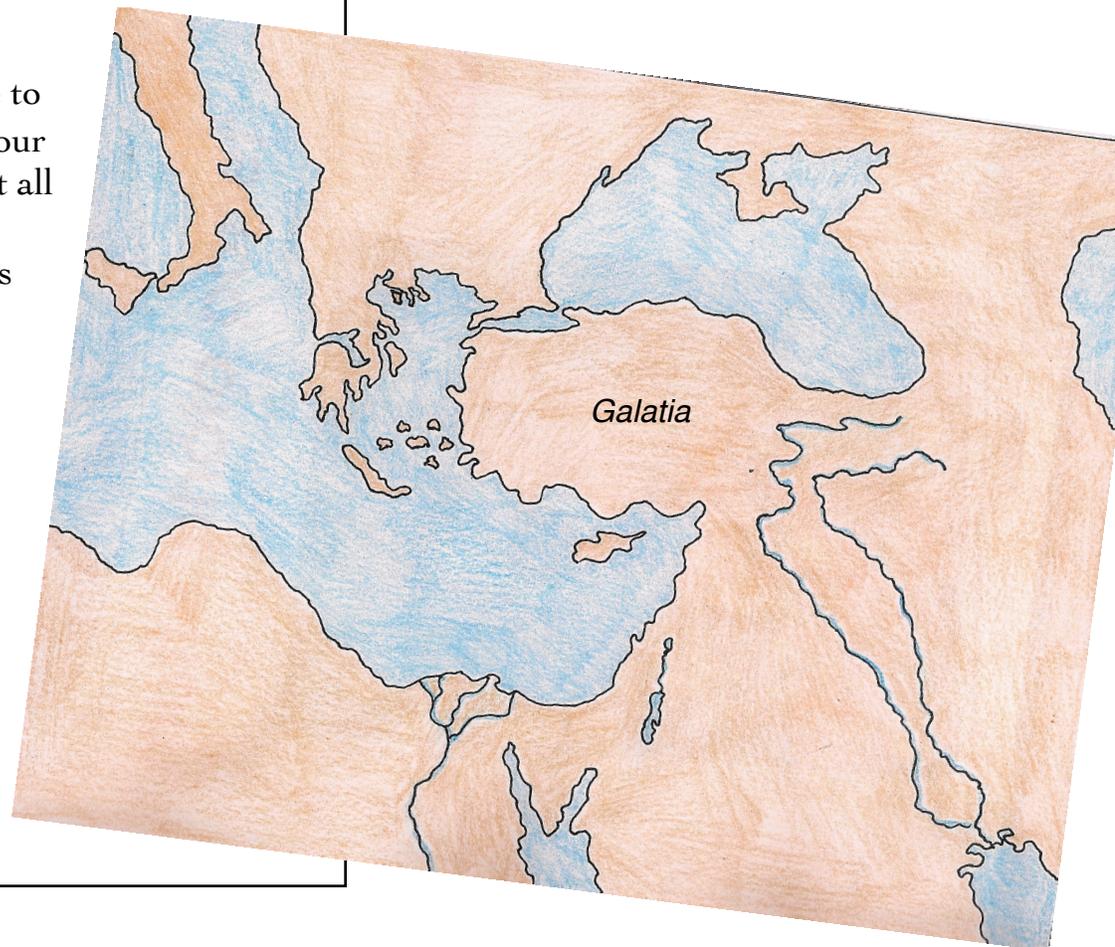
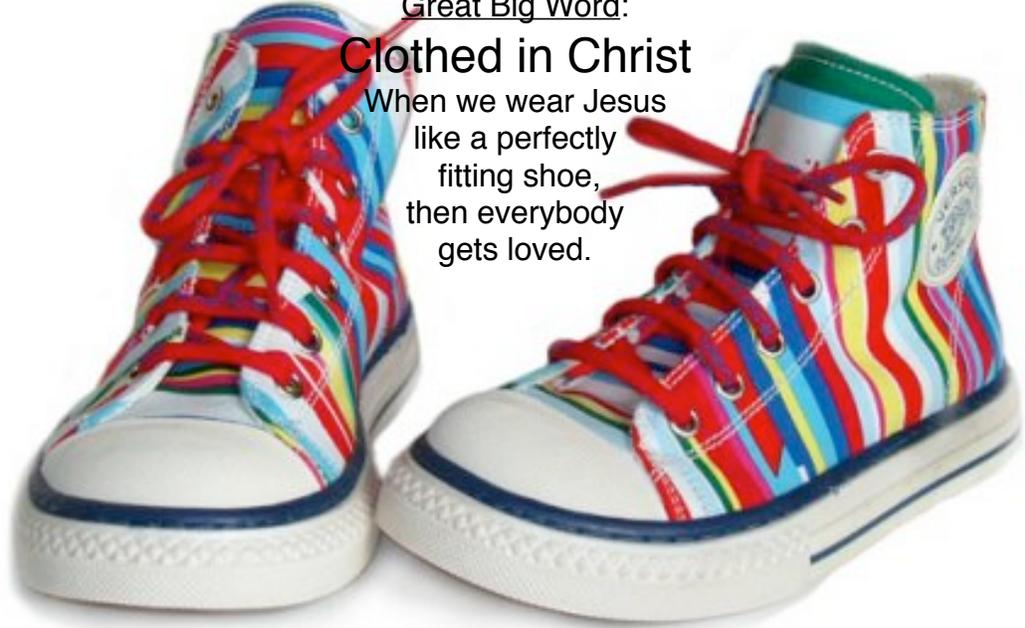
Who in your life has shown you a little glimpse of what the love of our good Heavenly Father is like? Was it your mother? Was it someone else? Who taught you about God's love for you? How might you thank that person this week?

Making the Connection:

Today happens to be Mother's Day. How fitting that we would hear the good news of God's welcome to us as his children on the same day that we celebrate the gift that mothers are to us! For some kids, mother's day is a chance to celebrate the goodness of their moms. Their moms are models of what it means to be loved unconditionally. For others, mother's day is a keen reminder that even the love of a mother is not perfect. Please be sensitive to the situations of those in your class and don't assume that all students have a positive image of their own mothers in mind during this lesson. However, this is an opportunity to help kids draw upon how they have experienced love and help them see God's love as an perfected version of the good that they have experienced from their loved ones- be that a mother, a father, or another caring adult.

Great Big Word:
Clothed in Christ

When we wear Jesus like a perfectly fitting shoe, then everybody gets loved.



All Age-Group Lesson

Materials Needed:

- Supplies for lily pin making
- Copies of the lily card printed on card stock
- Crayons or markers
- Access to a photocopier machine

Before the Kids Arrive:

Test out making a lily pin before the kids arrive so that you have the technique down. You may also wish to have some pieces already cut out and prepared for the kids ahead of time. (This is especially true for the younger kids). Talk ahead of time as teachers/superintendents whether or not you will have all the kids together for this lesson or if they will work individually in their age group classes.

Experiencing the Story/Activity:

Welcome kids. Ask them if they know what special day it is today. It's Mother's Day! Ask the kids about some of the things that a parent does that that they are thankful for. Write these ideas up on a chalk board or some poster paper. (They might say things like making supper, helping when they are sick, giving them hugs and kisses, etc. Feel free to prompt them to come up with lots of ideas.)

Tell the kids that in church today we will be learning about how God loves and cares for us ALL just like a good parent does, only better! Because of what Jesus has done, we all get to be a part of God's family! Today, on Mother's day, we can be especially thankful for family members who help us to know a little bit of what God's love for us is like.

Tell the kids that today in Sunday School we will be making a special gift for them to give to their moms or to another adult in their life who helps them in those good ways.

Show the kids an example of the Easter Lily pin they'll be making. Walk them through the instructions (see following pages) and help them start working.

As they are working, or after they are done, talk about the kind of flower they are making. If you have a real live Easter Lily available, have it sitting out on the table. Ask the students if they have seen a plant like this before? Where have they seen it? Perhaps some students will remember seeing the Easter lily plants in our church on Sunday morning.

Lilies are often used as Easter decorations because they are symbols of the resurrection. In parts of the world where lilies grow outside, they look dead and buried during the winter but then are “resurrected” in the Spring. Lilies were also the flower that Jesus talked about when he talked about how God clothes the lilies with beauty, but loves us and will take care of us even more. The trumpet shape of the lily is also a reminder to proclaim the good news of Jesus’ resurrection.

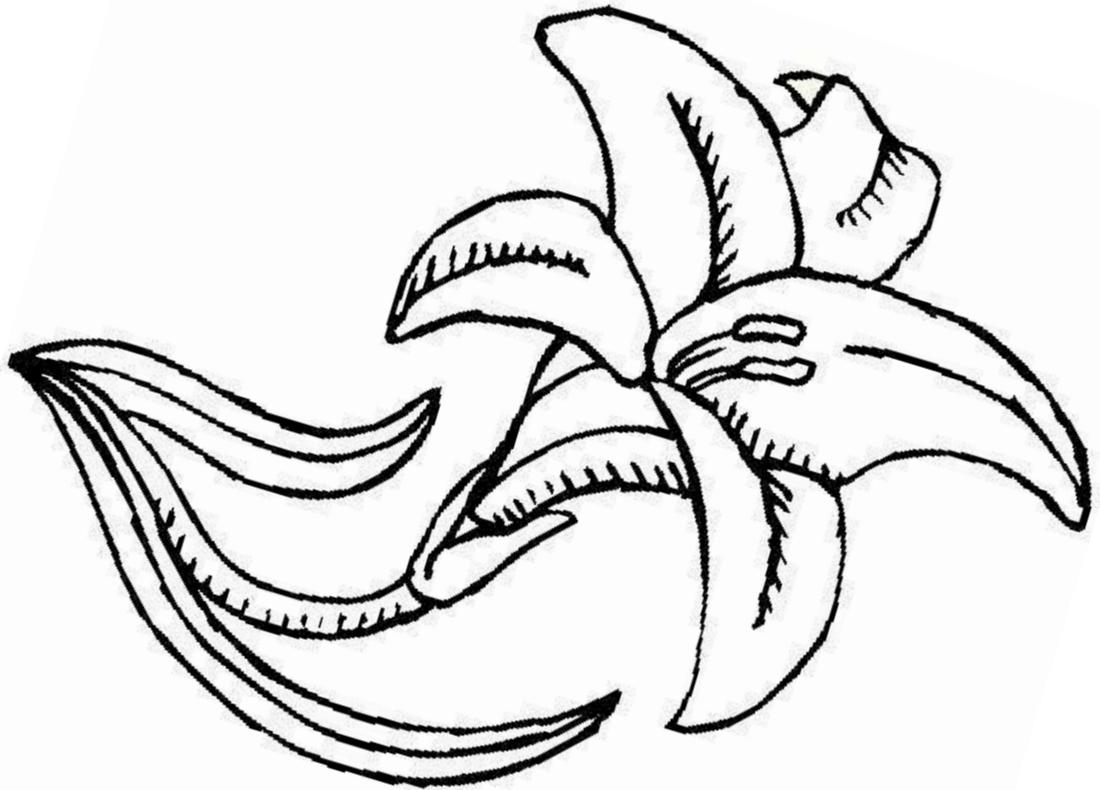
When students have completed their lilies, give them a copy of the lily card to color for their moms.

Directions for Making Easter Lily Brooch

1. Trace child's hand. Preschoolers could have their hands traced directly onto white felt. Otherwise, it is good to have them traced onto paper so that they can be reduced on the copy machine at about 50% size. You will need two white felt hands per student.
2. Cut out a small piece of yellow felt with some fringes on the end to be the center of the flower.
3. Out of green felt, cut a leaf shape and a long, thin piece that will wrap around the bottom of the rolled up flower to keep everything together.
4. Put the two hands together so that the fingers of one stick up slightly higher. Put the yellow piece in the center and roll the white pieces around it so that it forms the trumpet shape of an Easter lily.
5. Wrap the long, thin green piece of felt around the bottom to hold everything together. Also thread it through the safety pin so that it holds in place. Teachers, use some hot glue to hold everything together.

**See the following webpage for pictures
and more detailed instructions:**

<http://www.wildolive.blogspot.com/2011/04/make-handprint-easter-lily-brooch.html>



This isn't just a lily as you can plainly see.

I made it with my hand which God made a part of me.

The lily is a symbol of beauty and love.

It reminds me of the gifts God has sent from up above.

You are a gift- You love and forgive,

You teach me so much about how God wants me to live.

That's how I learn most everything about God, you see,

It's from the way that you love me.

So I made you this lily, to thank you and say:

I love you! Have a Happy Mother's Day!