

FAMILY BIBLE TIME

We're all saved by Jesus' grace.



Heavy Burdens



Have a variety of items handy eg a doll, a bag of rice etc. Kids take turns to carry the lighter ones through to the heavier ones. They can take turns trying to carry each other. Then they try to carry Mum or Dad!



As Paul travelled around telling people the good news, many of them believed in him. But lots of these believers weren't Jewish (from the country of Israel). Anyone who isn't Jewish is called a 'Gentile' in the Bible. Are you a Gentile or a Jew?

In the Old Testament (the early part of the story of the Bible), the Jewish people did some things that showed they were God's special people. Things like not working on Saturdays and not eating certain foods (remember the unclean animals Peter saw in a vision?). One other important way was being circumcised (boys had a piece of skin cut off when they were babies). If a man was circumcised, it meant that he and his whole family were agreeing to keep God's rules like the 10 commandments. These rules were a heavy load on their backs because they couldn't keep them all.

Some Jews thought that if a Gentile wanted to follow Jesus, they needed to become a Jew first by being circumcised. Paul disagreed. He didn't want Gentiles to stop turning to Jesus because circumcision and God's rules were too heavy. So he went to talk to the other apostles about it. This is what Peter said:

READ ACTS 15:8-9; 11 *'God knows the human heart. By giving the Holy Spirit to [Gentiles], he showed that he accepted them. He did the same for them as he had done for us [Jews]. He showed that there is no difference between us [Jews] and them. He made the [Gentiles'] hearts pure because of their faith... We believe we are saved through the grace of our Lord Jesus. Those who aren't Jews are saved in the same way.'*

Does God treat Jews and Gentiles differently?

How do we know?

We are all made pure by _____. We are all saved by Jesus' _____.

Are we saved by:

- a. being circumcised or having a Dad who is circumcised?
- b. keeping God's rules.
- c. trusting Jesus' kindness to us.
- d. trying hard to be a kind person.

Has God made you pure through your faith in his grace?



Thank Jesus for his grace and kindness to us.
Ask for God's help to have faith in him.



Color the following page and remember God's grace to you.

