

**Preparation Study**  
**April 15, 2012**

**Jesus Lives in Believers**

Do your kids think God “lives” at church? How have we accidentally taught them that?

**MONDAY STUDY**

**Read Galatians 2:19b-21 and answer the following questions:**

- *When you look at Paul’s own life, in what ways is it obvious that he believed he was no longer in charge of his own life?*
- *What does verse 20 imply was Paul’s motivation for living a life controlled by Christ? (That Christ loved Paul and gave Himself for Paul)*
- *What evidences have you seen in your own life that you have been crucified with Christ?*
- *In what ways does “I no longer live, but Christ lives in me” go against our independent, do-it-yourself, stand-on-your-own feet, pull-yourself-up-by-your-own-bootstraps American mind set?*
- *Go back to some of the discussion we had in the introduction. Is it “Christ living through you,” or is it “you living through Christ?” What’s the difference? (If we think that it’s Christ living through us, then it’s basically believing that we are still doing what we want to do, and asking Christ to “be with us” while we are doing it. But if it is us living through Christ, then it is discovering what Christ’s agenda is and what His priorities are, and adjusting our lives accordingly.)*
- *Why does it seem as though many people remember that salvation means forgiveness of sin but forget the transforming power of Christ for daily living?*
- *Do we still live as though our righteousness comes from the law? In what ways?*
- *What did Paul mean by verse 21- that if righteousness came from the Law, Christ died for nothing?*

**Summary:** Paul’s claim is very radical. We know we have been crucified with Christ because we read it, but living this day to day is different. Since we are literally dead to our old ways of life, we must look different than the world. If we don’t allow Him to transform us, they only hear empty words and it calls into question whether or not we were really saved.

**TUESDAY STUDY**

**Read Romans 6:1-7 and answer the following questions:**

- *What does new life mean to you?*
- *How has the death and resurrection of Jesus impacted your life?*
- *What are “sins claims” referred to in verse 7. (Guide learners to think of “claim” in this context not as an assertion someone makes— “I claim to be a football fan”; but as a right someone has to something. “I claim the seat next to the window.”)*
- *Why do believers sometimes live as if they are still enslaved to sin?*
- *Will the unbelief of the Jews cancel God’s faithfulness (3:4)?*
- *Is God unrighteous to inflict wrath (3:6)?*
- *Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace (6:15)?*
- *Is the law sin (7:7)?*
- *Is there injustice with God (9:14)?*
- *Has God rejected the Jews (11:1)?*

**Summary:** Paul is discouraging believers from living like they are dead, saying it's nearly impossible to do if Jesus has truly changed you.

### **WEDNESDAY STUDY**

**Read John 15:1-5 and answer the following questions:**

- *When did Jesus say these words? (the night before He was crucified).*
- *Jesus had just told the disciples in John 14:28 that He was going away. How could the disciples "remain in Him" if He was not going to remain with them physically? How can we?*
- *According to verse 2, what is the difference between what will happen to an unfruitful branch and a fruitful branch? (One gets removed; the other gets pruned).*
- *So Jesus doesn't just say, "Well, you're bearing fruit; so I will leave you alone?" Why not? (because He desires fruitful believers to be even more fruitful)*
- *Other than what happens to your fingers when you've been in the bathtub too long, what does it mean to be pruned?*
- *How have you experienced God's pruning in your own life?*
- *What prevents our productivity with Christ?*
- *Is being productive with Christ be a conscious or subconscious decision or both? Why?*

**Summary:** Our children learn very early in Sunday school and VBS that Jesus lives in them. Without a clear picture of what that looks like, the statement has little meaning for our lives. Understanding how and why we are crucified and raised with Him is imperative to our personal walks with Christ. Being productive with Him not only brings others to salvation but gives evidence that we are truly believers.

### **THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY STUDY**

Read the following articles contained in your study packet:

1. Newness of Life;
2. The Law in First Century Jewish Thought;
3. To Be Clean: