

THE LAW



Paul fought against the inclination of believers to think that their obedience to the law made them righteous. They were so focused on following Jewish law that they forgot about following Jesus. Instead, Paul urged believers to live out their freedom by serving others.

The **scales of justice** are a reminder of the weight of our sins. The law shows us our sin and helps us live out our faith—faith not in our ability to keep the law, but in the One who made it complete.

Galatians 5:1, 13–14

It's easy to believe that following the law makes us righteous. In this section of his letter to the Galatians, Paul corrected this idea and taught that Christ sets us free from the law. The law shows us our failures; Christ shows us freedom!

Check out these other Bible passages that connect with the theme of The Law!

- > **Romans 7:7-12** Why does Paul talk so much about the law and sin?
- > **Romans 5:12-13** If God forgives us, why does the law matter?
- > **Galatians 2:19-20** What kind of freedom does Jesus Christ give to us?

Talk about it!

Use these questions to connect with each other.

- > What would a world without laws look like?
- > In all of your life, what is the hardest rule for you to follow? The easiest?
- > How is God like or unlike the police?

What are preteens thinking?

Preteens tend to see things in black and white: for example, good guy versus bad guy. Challenge them to see that none of us quite measures up—none of us is all good or all bad.

Try this!

The word *rules* seems to always have a negative connotation, but it doesn't have to. Play a quick family game of "Follow the Leader" or "Simon Says." How does following the rules make the game more enjoyable for everyone?

Prayer

God, we know that you know best. Thank you for the law—and even more, thank you for grace when we mess up! Amen.