



WHAT'S A GALATIAN?

SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION &
FACILITATOR GUIDE

GRACE FELLOWSHIP

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& FACILITATOR GUIDE**

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Grace Fellowship / Brooklyn Park, MN / findgrace.com

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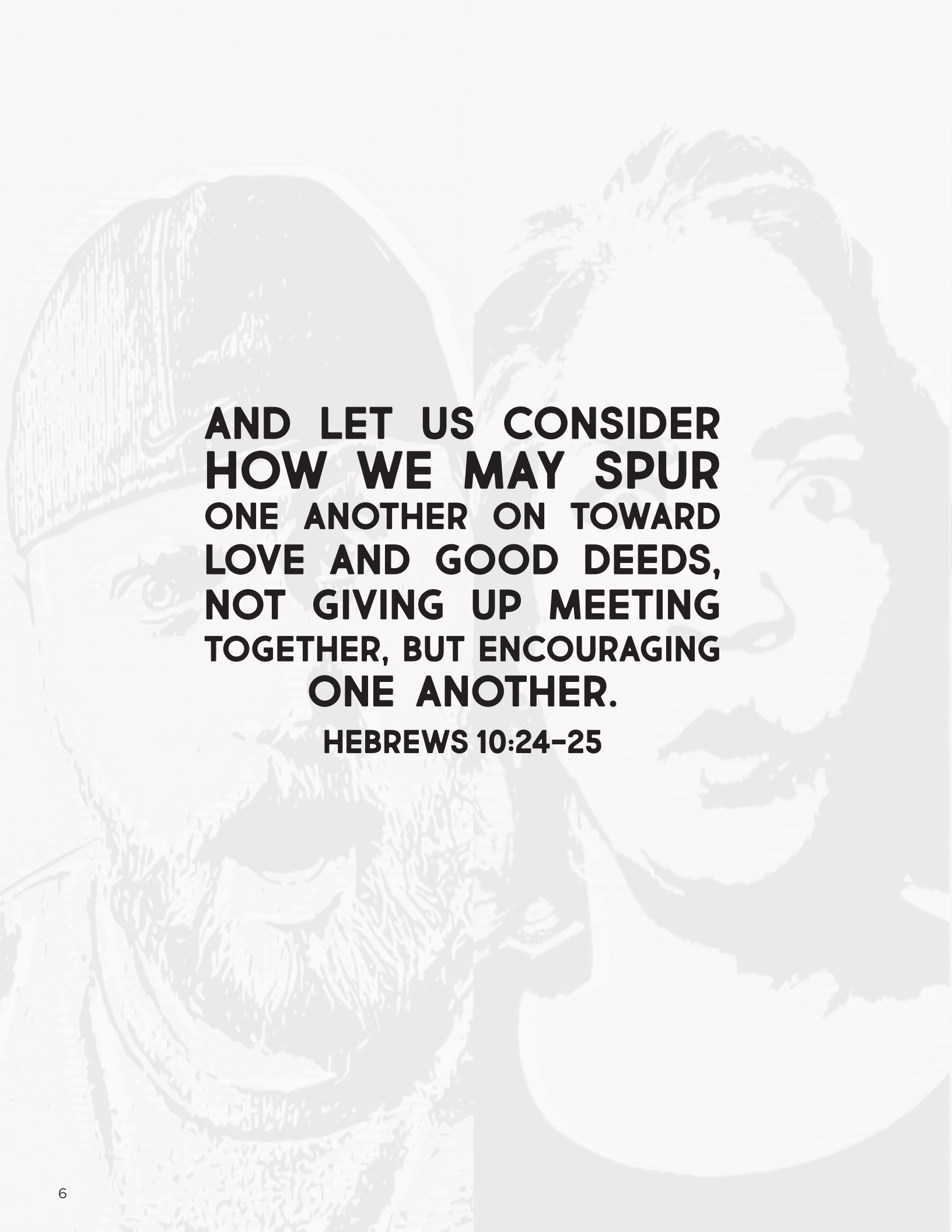
Rhythms idea and suggestions, Strongholds, Prayer Experience, and Service Experience from “Rooted” by Mariners Church, 2011.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, this book has been given to participants at no cost. If you would like to help others experience this Small Group study and grow closer to God, please consider making a gift at findgrace.com/giving.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Intro		7
Weekly Devotions		
Week 1	No Other Gospel	13
Week 2	We Fight for Freedom	23
Week 3	We Live by Faith	33
Week 4	We are Children of God	43
Week 5	We Find Freedom in Christ	53
Week 6	We are People who Bring Good News	63
Facilitator Guide - Notes & Discussion Questions		
Intro		74
Week 1		76
Week 2 & Serve Experience		78
Week 3		82
Week 4 & Prayer Experience		84
Week 5 & Strongholds		88
Week 6		94



**AND LET US CONSIDER
HOW WE MAY SPUR
ONE ANOTHER ON TOWARD
LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS,
NOT GIVING UP MEETING
TOGETHER, BUT ENCOURAGING
ONE ANOTHER.**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

WHAT'S A GALATIAN?

It's kind of a funny question. Especially since Galatia is known today as the country of Turkey. Paul wrote a stirring letter to the church in Galatia because they were having an identity crisis.

It's not that hard to believe that a nation could struggle with knowing who they are. Especially when you add a new identity in Christ to the equation. The Galatians struggled to let go of their past and walk forward by faith with God!

We have created a new study that helps us navigate all 6 chapters of Galatians while reaching critical checkpoints in the journey to discovering our true identities. This study offers new insights on what it means to be a Christ follower in times of social stress and conflict.

Paul's letter guides us through the process of untangling the ball of yarn we call our lives. It gives us a simple and clear line to Jesus. Like the Galatians, we are wrestling as a nation with our own identity crisis. So much of our identity is wrapped up in our family traditions, social pressures, and political views. The book of Galatians offers principles to follow Jesus that are tried and true.

This study is for you. During the Covid-19 crisis we have had a lot of time to think about who we are and what we might do next. Many feel that they have lost so much of their freedom and are overwhelmed with the stress of uncertainty. During this time, we believe it is important to take time and look to God for the most critical questions we face today. Who am I and what is the purpose of my life?

Here is what we want you to do over the next 6 - 10 weeks:

- Attend the weekly Worship Services- in-person or online @ findgrace.com
- Meet in a Small Group- join a group today by visiting findgrace.com
- Personal Time with God- invest 15 minutes daily to reading the devotions and that will lead you to true freedom
- Participate in a prayer experience and serve experience with your group
- Celebrate your identity and freedom in Christ

Thanks for taking the journey with us,

Joe Boyd
Lead Pastor

**“AND LET US CONSIDER HOW WE MAY SPUR
ONE ANOTHER ON TOWARD LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS,
NOT GIVING UP MEETING TOGETHER,
BUT ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER”
HEBREWS 10:24-25**

THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the journey through Galatians with your small group. We are better when we are learning and growing together. To get the most out of this experience, we will focus on three essential environments God uses to grow and mature us in grace.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

The worship services will be aligned to bring celebration, worship, clarity and challenge to your daily time with the Lord. The messages will be biblically based in the very passages you read and explore in your daily time in the Word. The messages are posted at findgrace.com.

PERSONAL STUDY

Who God is and what He is saying to you is revealed in the Bible. You will not be led well by popular opinions or personal impulses. God’s Word will lead each day throughout the week. The content has been written for five days a week so that if you miss one, you can easily catch up on the weekend. After you read the Bible passage each day, a short commentary will help you understand it. The daily questions will help you process your thoughts and beliefs. Clear away distractions to read, listen, understand and respond to what God is teaching you. Find a consistent place, at a consistent time to get the most out of your time in the Word.

Then spend some time praying as directed through the PRAY acronym – Praise, Repent, Ask and Yield. This is a helpful resource to guide and focus your prayer on God.

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCES

We learn and grow far more when we share it with a caring and committed group of Christ followers. Your small group will provide you an opportunity to share what God is teaching you and how His Spirit is leading you throughout this series.

The aim for each week is to allow your group to read God’s Word and to connect the truth of God to the realities of life. Sharing life includes

- Christ-centered conversation marked by open and honest dialogue.
- Bearing one another’s burdens and celebrating one another’s joys.
- Practicing the 7 Rhythms of group life.
- Lots of fun, support and care.

7 RHYTHMS OF GROUP LIFE

The definition of rhythm is a strong, regular and repeated pattern. Repeating these rhythms are what make your group unique from other relationship experiences.

- Daily Devotion - Read & reflect on God’s Word.
- Serve the Local Community - Work together to meet needs.
- Sacrificial Generosity - Give because the Gospel is worth it.
- Prayer - Talk with God all the time.
- Freedom from Strongholds - Confess your sins to one another.
- Reflect on Your Story - Share what Jesus has done in your life.
- Celebration - Rejoice together always.

GROUP TIME

Most often group time is 1.5-2 hours and includes:

- Connecting with each other - 10-15 minutes to gather, check in, get settled, announcements.
- Study - 40-60 minutes to read the passage aloud together and go through questions.
- Care & Prayer - 15-20 minutes to hear prayer requests and pray.

COVID-19

It is for you and your group to decide the safety guidelines during COVID-19. Many groups will meet online using a platform like Zoom. If choosing to meet in-person, it is important to have an understanding with your group members about masks, social distancing, hand sanitizing and food. Grace Fellowship recommends following StaySafeMN <https://staysafe.mn.gov/individuals-families/social-gatherings.jsp>

MEMORY VERSES

WEEK ONE - GALATIANS 1:10b

If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

WEEK TWO - GALATIANS 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me..

WEEK THREE - GALATIANS 3:11

Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.”

WEEK FOUR- GALATIANS 4:7

So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

WEEK FIVE - GALATIANS 5:1

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

WEEK SIX - GALATIANS 6:14

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.





WHAT'S A GALATIAN?

WEEK 1
NO OTHER GOSPEL

MEMORY VERSE

**IF I WERE STILL TRYING
TO PLEASE PEOPLE,
I WOULD NOT BE A
SERVANT OF CHRIST.**

GALATIANS 1:10B

GALATIANS 1

Have you ever received a harsh text or email that seemed to correct or confront you by the way it began? From the second you begin reading it, it is obvious that the person who wrote it isn't beating around the bush. We get that same feeling in the opening address of Paul's letter to the churches in the region of Galatia. What was going on there for him to boldly and directly confront these churches?

Paul wrote this letter during the late 40's to early 50's of the first century A.D. News got back to him regarding churches in Galatia who originally had found Christ and were established in grace. These same churches later lapsed, falling back onto works by believing a message and re-adopting practices that bound them back to the rituals and requirements of the Law. As a former zealous Jew, Paul had followed religious practices to please and perform for God. When he personally came to faith in Christ, he realized everything he had with God was because of the completed work of Jesus. He was saved by grace alone through faith. His walk with Jesus was so much more joyful and at peace with God and others. The thought of churches turning back from grace to reestablish the law made his heart ache.

As you begin this journey through the book of Galatians, engage the Word of God with an openness for insight and correction – to align your life to the grace of God and away from your dependence on performance and works. Think of correction as lines on the road to keep your car in the lane. Correction is there for your good and to help you safely reach your destination, rather than limiting and constraining you from living however you want to live. Remember, God corrects his children with a faithful and unrelenting love. His way for us is filled with hope and a future.

Paul is making a defense for the integrity of the gospel he received from Christ. Since false teachers were accusing him of crafting his own “gospel”–one that ignored and even ceased their Jewish laws or rituals, he needed to prove that the true gospel that came from Jesus to him was not from man but from God himself.

He makes his case by sharing the uniqueness of his conversion and how isolated he was from the influence of other church leaders around him in the early years of his faith. He then could make the claim, “In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!”

As we will look into the life story of Paul this week and we will explore his conversion and post-conversion story. We'll see the contrast of a “life before” and a “life after” Christ. We will also consider our own stories. Sharing your story in this case is to share how you became aware that everything you have with God is because of His grace and not your works. It would also include how you are learning and growing in grace in your relationship with Christ and with others.

MESSAGE NOTES

Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—and all the brothers and sisters with me,

To the churches in Galatia:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

KEY POINT

The God who saved us sends us.

COMMENTARY

Look at how Paul begins this letter with a defensive tone and bold proclamation of his apostleship. Paul, an apostle--not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead. He had to play the “Apostle card” upfront to establish his authority and lay the foundation on the character and authority of Jesus Christ.

ἀπόστολος = SENT

The Greek word, “apostolos” or apostle means to be “sent” by God. Paul was personally called by the risen Christ and appointed by Christ to preach the gospel and to teach authoritatively about doctrine relating to faith in Christ. Apostles were eyewitnesses who wrote down the original text of the New Testament Scriptures and were received by the church from day one as inspired by God and authoritative; not just to be heard but to be followed.

In addition to his teaching and preaching and leadership gifts, Paul was commissioned directly by Jesus and given absolute authority. Therefore, what Paul wrote was then authoritative for doctrine, correction and instruction for the Church. Because he wrote in the authority of Jesus, we know this letter includes even us today as we read. Although many in the church today have wonderful leadership and teaching skills and exhibit apostle-like traits, none have the authority of the original few who were eye-witnesses to the resurrected Jesus and were directly commissioned or “sent” to proclaim the gospel and build the church. Paul makes the case that his authority to speak and correct came not from the calling of men but rather the calling of God. As the churches in Galatia waffled in trying to work their way with God, he was an Apostle sent to them with a message of correction and alignment to God’s grace in Jesus Christ.

In verses 3-5, Paul describes the gracious work of God in the gospel. The gospel is from our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. It’s a gift to be received by faith. Jesus Christ gave himself—Christ loved us and gave up himself to live, die and rise for us.

For our sins – He took our place on the cross and paid for our sins

To deliver us – because Christ is our Savior, we are no longer under the punishment of God and penalty for sin

According to the will of our God and Father – all of the planning and working of salvation is the will of God

To whom be glory – from the first to last, God is the one who thought of saving us before we were thinking about Him and He is the one to whom we will give glory to forever.

RESPOND

1. Taking Paul's example of describing his calling, how would you explain your calling from Christ?

2. By whose authority do you share the gospel and how does this make a difference?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 1:6-9

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

KEY POINT

Revising the gospel results in a gospel reversal.

COMMENTARY

Paul doesn't waste any time addressing the point of the matter in the churches in Galatia. It took him by surprise that people who so joyfully received the gospel of grace would be tricked into relying on works for salvation and their relationship with God. By adding to the work of Christ for salvation or even to stay saved, they were reversing the foundation of the gospel.

They may have seen it as a subtle shift of doctrine or preference, but Paul saw it as a landslide. And he called it boldly. To accept the different gospel was to desert God and would result in God's strong judgment: "let him be accursed."

Try not to miss this. We need to see the intensity of his correction to understand what it means and follow it. What Paul is saying is: If you add anything to Christ as the basis or condition for your acceptance with God then you make the gospel null and void. There is no other gospel than the one God has already given us in Christ. It's a gospel founded on grace. It is the person and work of Jesus Christ for us - and NOTHING added. The gospel is all of Christ or it is nothing at all.

RESPOND

1. Without a grounding in the gospel, we will stumble with our performance and try to be our own personal "saviors." In your walk with Christ, what (apart from Christ) have you been tempted to place your confidence in?

2. What do you need to be reminded about the gospel that can help you when you are tempted to place your confidence in your own works or practices?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 1:10

Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

KEY POINT

A servant of Christ cannot serve for others approval.

COMMENTARY

The church in Galatia was growing with a non-Jewish congregation. The gospel was bringing Jew and Gentile together and joyfully integrating people from all backgrounds and nationalities into a church family. We aren't told how long it took for some false teachers to come into it and mess things up, but as soon as Paul heard about it, he tried to address it.

Those who came into the church in Galatia and taught false truth about the gospel were called Judaizers (jew-day-izers). This group of people were Jews who believed that Jesus was the Messiah and that he died on the cross, paying the price of their sin. However, they added the condition that as they followed Christ, believers were to also continue in practicing the Jewish laws and rituals, like circumcision and celebrations. As a result, they placed a huge burden on the church to perform, rather than rest in the work of Christ for them – robbing them of God's grace.

Paul's strong correction was proof he feared nothing in addressing this heresy. He was a courageous servant of Christ and cared little to impress them or seek their approval.

RESPOND

1. "If I were trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." What subtle issues in your heart keep you more focused on winning the approval of others rather than standing and speaking as a servant of Christ?

2. As you think about the agenda of your day, what challenge or opportunity do you see where you can specifically take the posture of a "servant of Christ?"

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 1:11-12

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

KEY POINT

The credit for grace goes to God.

COMMENTARY

Where did the gospel come from? Who invented it? That's a question many outside of it are asking. It's common in a secular world to think that the church made up doctrine and beliefs to control people with guilt and shame. The unbelieving world repels the truth that the gospel came from God.

But think about it. The true gospel literally has nothing to gain from guilt and shame from our behaviors. If grace is all about GRACE: God's Riches At Christ's Expense, then nothing about our works, religious practices, or moral performance wins the approval or acceptance of God for us. It's good news because it only requires us to accept it as a gift rather than measure up to it. And it makes it difficult as a church to make money off the gospel or hold people hostage through performance of rituals or works with something that can only be received by faith, as happened in Galatia.

Paul shares that he received the gospel by a revelation of Jesus Christ. This supernatural revelation from God to Paul on the road to Damascus was a major defining moment in his faith. It altered his entire reality and direction in life. Paul could not take the credit for what God revealed and that he received, which made him joyfully share it with others – free of charge.

RESPOND

1. What things are free but priceless in your life?

2. How does receiving something priceless for free, like the gospel, change the way you live?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. I saw none of the other apostles —only James, the Lord's brother. I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.

Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." And they praised God because of me.

KEY POINT

The worst of us can have the best of grace.

COMMENTARY

Paul shares his life story to make a point about God's grace. Look at what he shares about his life before Christ:

- I persecuted the church violently and tried to destroy it.
- I advanced Judaism which denied the Messiah, Jesus.

Other New Testament passages share more about Paul's past:

Acts 8:3 But Saul (Paul) was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Philippians 3:6 ...as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

But then God's grace entered his life. He shares the specifics of what a gracious God was doing in him to bring him to salvation.

- He who had set me apart before I was born
- He who called me by his grace
- He was pleased to reveal his Son to me

Paul shares this to build his case that the gospel was not his idea but God's plan for him. When he thought he was pursuing his own way through life, God was actually drawing him to Christ. God had been shaping and preparing him all his life to have an encounter with Christ that would radically change his life and advance the gospel in the world. From a human standpoint, Paul was a devout Jew, and a bold persecutor and enemy of Christ and his followers. From God's perspective, Paul was being prepared to come to Christ and preach among the Gentiles.

Can you imagine the talk in the churches in and around Jerusalem as it was shared that Paul would be coming back for a visit? "The persecutor" comes back "the preacher!" For these church members, their family members and friends were the very people Paul persecuted – even killed. Only the grace of God would be able to heal the wounds in their lives that he caused. And it did! We know because he says they "glorified God because of me."

RESPOND

1. Looking back on the positive or challenging experiences of your past, in what ways can you see how God worked in your life to prepare you to serve him now?

2. What is something God is doing through you that is humbling to you, but gives Him more of the credit and glory?

PRAY

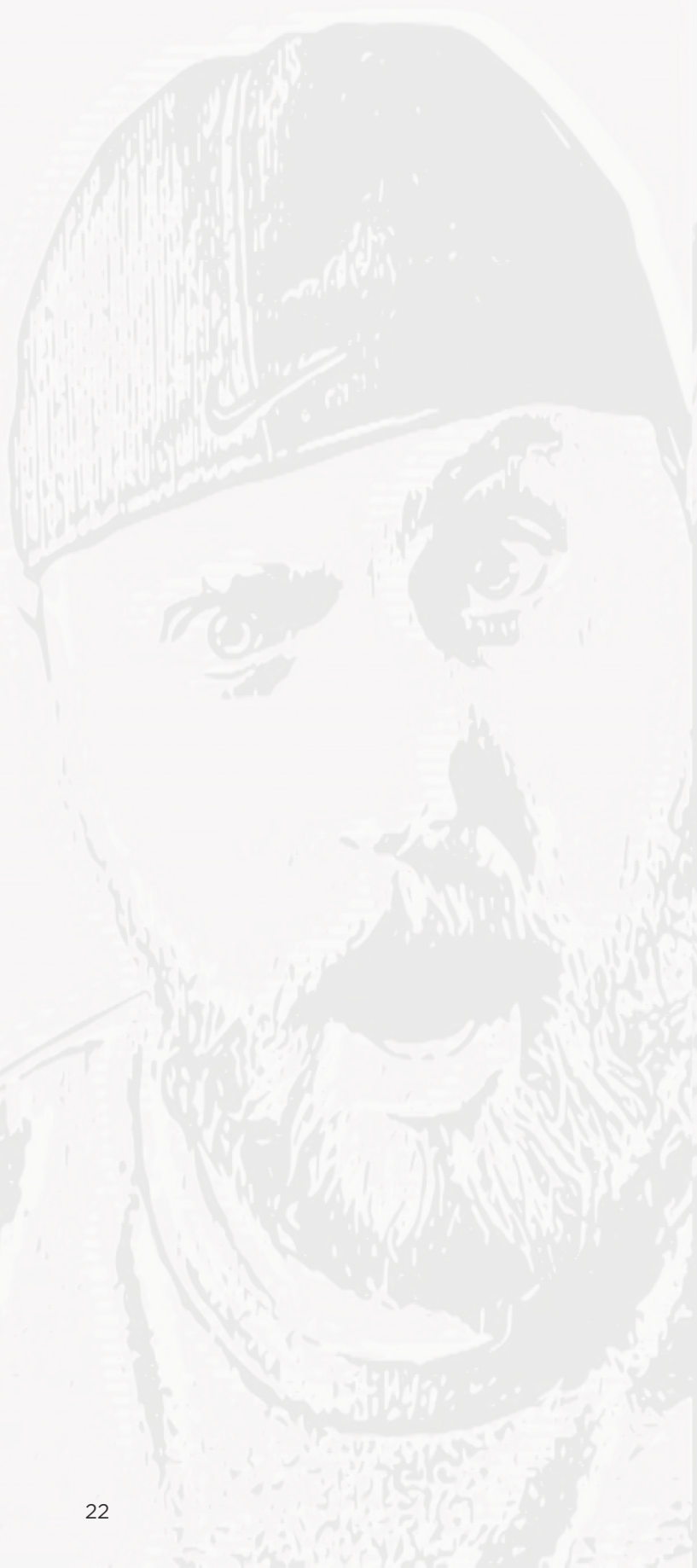
Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.



MEMORY VERSE

**IF I WERE STILL TRYING
TO PLEASE PEOPLE,
I WOULD NOT BE A
SERVANT OF CHRIST.**

GALATIANS 1:10B



WHAT'S A GALATIAN?

WEEK 2

WE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

MEMORY VERSE

**I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST
AND I NO LONGER LIVE,
BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME.
THE LIFE I NOW LIVE IN THE BODY,
>>> I LIVE BY FAITH <<<
IN THE SON OF GOD,
WHO LOVED ME AND
GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME.**

GALATIANS 2:20

GALATIANS 2

This week's passage is going to cover some major truths about the grace of God in the gospel. Every belief you hold has an impact on your life. Paul had such a radical conversion that moved him from the law to grace - from depending on his own righteous performance to resting in the completed work of Christ for him. This week as we lean into God's scripture we will learn that grace is not just a truth, it's an invitation to live.

MESSAGE NOTES

Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain. Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

KEY POINT

Inclusion requires intention.

COMMENTARY

Paul's story continues with another experience in Jerusalem with Barnabas. This happened 14 years after his conversion and is detailed in Acts chapter 15. It is known as the Jerusalem Council. The early church leaders gathered to discuss whether the Jewish law still had authority in the life of a believer in Christ. Some held that Gentiles who believed in Christ must also be circumcised (Acts 15:1). It was important for the early church to be unified on this topic not only to combat false teachers, but also to bring clarity to the acceptance and roles of Jews and Gentiles within the church.

The moment was tense and the future of the gospel was at stake. Interestingly, Paul brought with him two leaders named Barnabas and Titus. Barnabas was a Jew and Titus was a Gentile. How would Titus be received? Look at what happened in Acts 15:

Acts 15:4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them.

Acts 15:12 And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

The early church leaders not only accepted but also endorsed the gospel in the lives of Gentiles. They affirmed both Jewish and Gentile believers who no longer lived under the law but chose to live by grace. The precedent set by this meeting in Jerusalem meant that Christians were no longer bound by the law, but set free by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Inclusion requires intention. It's tempting to hang around people who look, act, and believe like you. Think how courageous it was for Paul to bring Titus, a Gentile, into a group of Jewish believers to live out the reality that there is no distinction in Christ. He included Titus not only in his life, but also on this journey to Jerusalem to show the acceptance of Christ for all believers. This small act of inclusion had a profound impact in the application of acceptance. It boldly declared that the gospel is good news for the whole world and includes people from every nation and tribe.

RESPOND

1. Do you remember a time when you felt out of place and someone took the time to include you in a group or meeting? How did God use that experience to deepen your relationships or grow you?

2. Who is in your life - a person or people group - that you have pushed to the margins and ignored? What is God leading you to do?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 2:6-10

As for those who were held in high esteem—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism—they added nothing to my message. On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised. For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles. James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

KEY POINT

The same gospel is alive and at work in different people.

COMMENTARY

Look at all the names and backgrounds represented in today's passage. Paul is giving proof that the same gospel of grace is alive and working in a diversity of people. Paul's main ministry was to the Gentiles. Peter was called to the Jews. Each were called by God to advance the gospel to the ends of the world.

In advancing the gospel to others, some add their customs or style to the gospel and lose the opportunity to communicate it across diverse cultures. Others adapt it so far that it loses its uniqueness and essence. If traditions and preferences are paired with the gospel, the message communicated is that true Christians always do things a certain way. This adds to the gospel. On the other hand, if you change the gospel to make it more acceptable for a culture, you will also lose the gospel. All truth is God's truth, but all truth is not equally as strongly in the scriptures.

RESPOND

1. How have you seen God use kindness and generosity to tear down walls that divide people of different races, beliefs and cultures?

2. This principle of love tearing down walls that divide works today. If you have someone in your life who you're at odds with, consider praying and serving them in a helpful way today. Name the person or people group.

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 2:11-14

When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

KEY POINT

Grace calls us to integrity.

COMMENTARY

Integrity means to be whole and complete, consistent in belief and practice; balanced in results and relationships.

When Paul was in Antioch with Peter (Cephas), he noticed that Peter ate with Gentile believers. This meant that Peter, a Jew, did not have a problem eating the food that was forbidden by Jewish law.

In Acts 10, Peter received a vision from God showing him a great sheet full of animals forbidden for eating by the law. In the vision, God told him to "Kill and eat...do not call anything impure that God has made clean." (v. 13) Peter followed this command. But as we read in Galatians chapter 2, when Jewish believers showed up, Peter separated himself from the Gentiles and went back to observing the law as he ate. Paul publicly confronts this hypocrisy in Peter (Cephas) and calls him to live in Christ, no longer bound by the law.

The Greek word used here for hypocrisy refers to "straight walking." Paul means that these believers were not acting with integrity, or "walking straight". Grace calls us to be people who walk the line of grace; not only believing the truth of the gospel but also practicing the truth of the gospel in our daily lives. Paul gives us a guide for integrity in this passage: "I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel." (v. 14) To live by grace is to practice grace in the relationships of your life in a way that is consistent with the grace you have received from Christ.

RESPOND

1. What is an area of conduct in your life that you are struggling to practice consistently in line with the truth of the gospel?

2. Confrontation is never easy – these conversations are crucial but difficult. Think about how Paul confronted Peter about his lack of "straight-walking" with grace. If you were Peter, what attitude would you need to hold that would help you listen to Paul's words?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn't that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker.

For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God.

KEY POINT

Grace calls us to faith.

COMMENTARY

The gospel truth is that we are justified by faith. Justification was a legal term and it involved the pronouncement by a judge that the person on trial was *relieved of penalty* for their crimes while also *given the rights and privileges* of those who keep the law. Instead of condemnation, someone who was justified received liberation. God's grace made justification a reality for us.

This is a central truth of the gospel – You have been justified by faith. God declared you no longer liable for your sin but set you free in Christ.

Write your name: _____ has been justified by faith in Christ.

This simple statement has profound meaning. It will also be a central truth that will be attacked on a daily basis as you live in a works-based world. If Peter, one of the apostles and among the closest companions of Jesus struggled with striving in his own righteousness or resting in the righteousness of Christ, we know we will also experience this struggle daily.

The daily challenge with grace is the conflict between works and faith. When you live out of works, your standing with God will be dependent on daily results – the good things we thought, said or did. When you fail or mess up, you'll lose your confidence in your standing with God. Works always shift your standing because they depend on you. There will be stress and anxiety when works are ruling in life.

Grace calls us to faith. When you live by faith, you rest in the completed work of Christ for you. Faith is leaning on and trusting in another to do for you what you cannot do for yourself. It's the central theme of the gospel to call us away from our works and failures and to come to rest in the person and work of Jesus.

RESPOND

1. How would you explain "justification by faith" to someone who has never been to church before?
2. Think about the conflict between works and faith. What has been your personal challenge in living by grace rather than works?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 2:20-21

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!

KEY POINT

Grace calls us to a new identity.

COMMENTARY

To be nailed to a wooden cross and hung up in public for all to see and curse caused horror in the lives of first century citizens. Crucifixion was a violent, painful and slow but certain death. Paul specifically used this term to describe the way his old ways and life under the law came to an end when Christ died for him on the cross.

The result of grace is a new identity. Formerly IN SIN, grace calls us to live IN CHRIST. Look at what this means for you personally as a believer in Christ:

- Christ's death on the cross, meant my death to sin
- Christ's life is now my life
- My past is behind me and no longer defines me
- My guilt and shame were nailed to the cross
- My penalty was fully and finally paid for by Christ
- I am no longer condemned by God but accepted in love
- I no longer live by works but by faith
- Christ doesn't live around me - he lives IN me
- I live a life as a beloved child of God, accepted in His family
- I live with an imperfect body but I trust in a perfect God
- I no longer live for myself - I live for Christ!

This seems so simple and clear by reading this passage. But if Peter, who literally saw with his own eyes the resurrected Christ and still drifted back into the works of the law, you can be assured that it will be a temptation for us.

It's impossible to mix works with grace. If you could save yourself through being good or doing good things, the death of Christ will lose its purpose and value in your life.

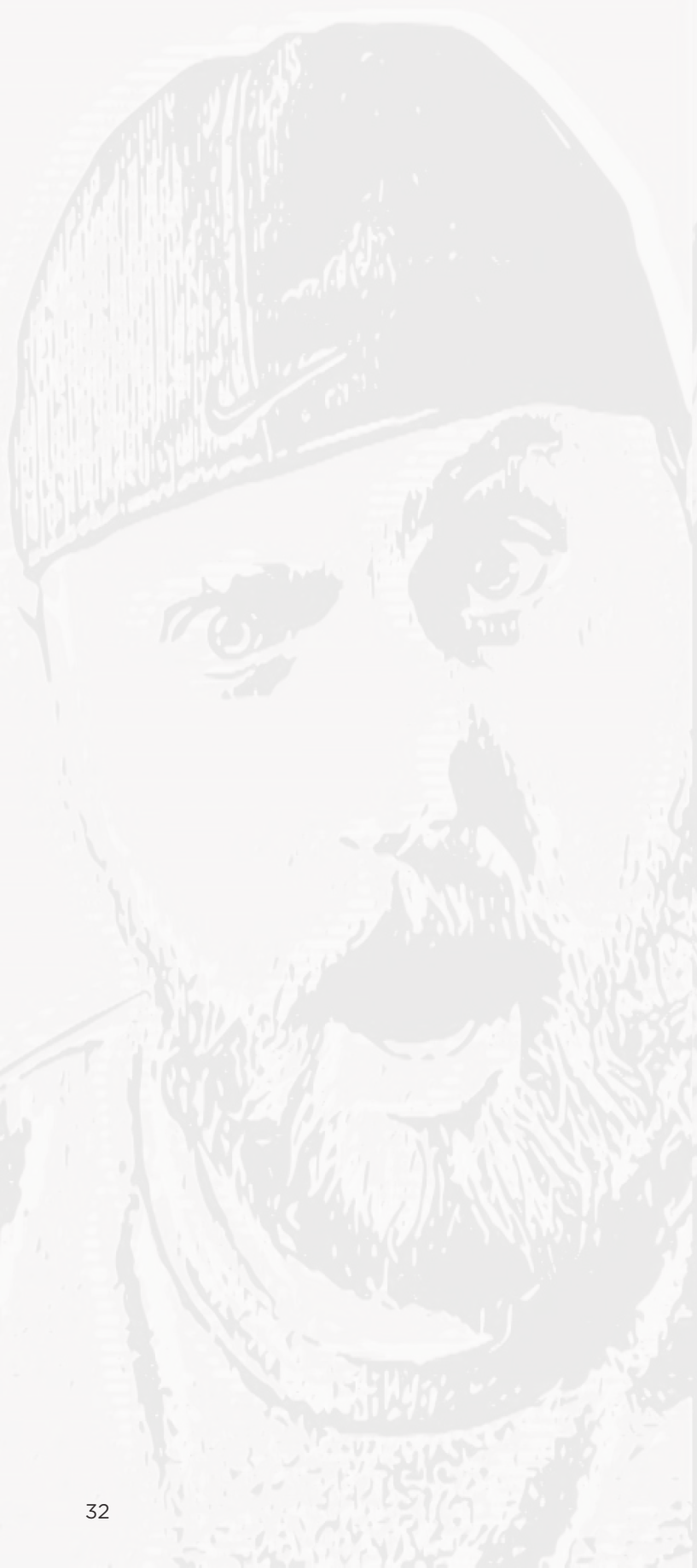
RESPOND

1. What did you need to be reminded about your identity in Christ today?

2. What could you remind another follower of Christ about their identity in Christ today?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.





WHAT'S A GALATIAN?

WEEK 3
WE LIVE BY FAITH

MEMORY VERSE

**CLEARLY NO ONE
WHO RELIES ON
THE LAW IS JUSTIFIED
BEFORE GOD, BECAUSE
"THE RIGHTEOUS
WILL LIVE BY FAITH."**

GALATIANS 3:11

GALATIANS 3

What you embraced as truth when you came to faith will be challenged by insecurities in you and by forces around you.

Paul is confronting the Galatian church regarding the contradiction of their practices with the integrity of the gospel. We will explore the beauty and wonder of the gospel this week. The gospel is not just information or advice, but a proclamation about Christ. It does not come with a requirement to do something to earn it (God's grace) but instead is a response to what Christ has already done for us on the cross. Our response is not to work harder, but instead to rest deeper in the reality of the completed work of Christ.

This week we will learn what benefit, if any, the law has. Laws bring clarity and boundaries, providing safety and security for society. However, few people enjoy life when it is overwhelmed by laws. What is our relationship as a follower of Christ to God's law?

You will need to keep in mind four words used by Paul in his explanation:

- Law - the law given to Moses by God for the people of Israel.
- Promise - the promise given to Abraham in Genesis 12 that he would be the father of a new and great nation to represent God in the world.
- Offspring - refers to the descendants of Abraham in the Jewish race but also those who believe in Christ. There is a dual meaning: an offspring or descendant from Abraham, but also those who are now offspring of Christ through faith.
- Inheritance - the blessing of relationship with God, redemption by Christ, and eternal life.

MESSAGE NOTES

GALATIANS 3:1-6

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain? So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.

KEY POINT

The gospel defeats foolishness.

COMMENTARY

Foolishness is not a word that we'd like used to describe our behavior. However, that is the word Paul used to describe people who trusted in the person and work of Christ but then turned to their own personal saviors.

A personal savior is something we place our trust in. We turn to a savior to deliver our needs or desires, or rescue us from short-comings or failures. Comfort, significance, approval and control can be personal saviors when they contribute to self-righteousness and discontentment at the expense of the at the expense of relying on the completed work of Christ and your acceptance by God in Christ.

Apart from the grace of God in the gospel, these personal saviors will compete with and replace your dependence on and appreciation of the work of Christ. One way to determine what is your personal savior is to identify a stronghold you have and then ask the question “how can I be delivered from it?”

If you struggle with anger or bitterness and your solution is to try harder not to be angry, your personal savior would be “trying harder,” which is a common response to sin. If you are hurt and feel bitter at someone who has been critical of you, and you try to be delivered from your hurt by seeking the approval of others, your personal savior would be “acceptance of others.”

As we look to the gospel, specifically, Jesus and His work for us, we see that we are forgiven, accepted and restored back to God. Because of the cross, we are led by the Spirit to replace our personal saviors with the true Savior.

RESPOND

1. The gospel is your on-going source of acceptance with God. What other “personal saviors” have swayed you from this truth?

2. What do you believe about the gospel that helps address the “personal saviors” in your life?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 3:20-21

Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith." The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, "The person who does these things will live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

KEY POINT

Faith is taking God at His Word and acting on it.

COMMENTARY

Paul references Abraham, the father of faith, to show the importance of faith over works. Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness (3:6). God told Abraham to leave his homeland and travel to the Promised Land. God also told Abraham while he was childless and aged that he and his wife would have a son and that their descendants would grow into a great nation.

God wants everyone to be saved by grace through faith. Abraham was called the father of a great nation because he took God at his word and took the next step with God. We are descendants or sons of Abraham through faith, not by works or even our nationality. We are related not because of race but because of faith.

There are two ways to live: living by faith or living by the law. When you live by faith you depend on the work of Christ for salvation and your ongoing acceptance with God. When you live by the law, you depend on your own performance and opinion of yourself to determine your standing with God and others. You will struggle when others reject you or are critical of you. You will seek the approval of others. You may even walk away from God because you believe he is harsh and judgmental. Living by the law will be a curse because the measure we use on ourselves or others will ultimately place a burden on us when we fall short of it.

RESPOND

1. What does it look like when you are living by the law?

2. What does it look like when you are living by faith?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

Brothers and sisters, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ.

What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

KEY POINT

God's promise in Christ is based on His faithfulness.

COMMENTARY

Have you ever closed on a loan for a home? The process involves numerous documents. Many pages requiring signatures, names and clauses change hands. A contract is usually drawn up between the two parties to clarify a promise and accept responsibility of the conditions. Because of this process, contracts are difficult to void or ignore without consequences.

God has been making promises to us ever since he created us. Paul uses examples of God's promises to demonstrate that no matter what changes might happen, God keeps his promises. Like a contract, his promises are binding.

When God promised to Abraham and his “offspring” that there would be a blessing of grace through one descendant named Jesus, this promise was made before the law was given and therefore precedes the law. Believing that salvation comes through the law also means believing God “changed his mind” and cancelled his promise that salvation is His work. The basis of salvation would then have to come from obedience to the law rather than his grace – based on our performance and not his promise.

The covenant promise of God relied not on Abraham but on God. Genesis 12 speaks of all that God would do for Abraham – Abraham only had to trust God and take the next step with him. So what does this mean to us? Which would you rather have – the promise of God or the law of God? The promises of God need only to be believed. The law of God needs to be obeyed. The promise of God in Christ is received by faith like you receive a free gift – it is not earned or deserved. The law of God is to be observed and obeyed.

RESPOND

1. Name a promise you have made. What did it require of you to keep the promise?

2. What promises of God do you see played out in your own history?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 3:19-25

Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator. A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one.

Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

KEY POINT

The law can point out our sin but it cannot provide our salvation.

COMMENTARY

Paul uses two pictures to show us where we stand after all our failed attempts to follow the law:

Imprisoned: The law is a prison guard. Envision a Roman guard, watching over people and keeping them from escaping. The law pointed out what is good and right as well as what is bad and evil. It could not set people free. It kept them bound and enslaved to it.

Captive: Through the law we see God's standards and our inability to measure up to them. We simply do not have the power or capacity to live up to the righteous requirement of the law. This leaves us captive to our sin - hopeless and helpless.

These two word pictures seem negative and restrictive. Those who are at the end of themselves, imprisoned and enslaved by sin, can be set free through the cross of Christ. Those held captive are liberated in Christ. The ultimate purpose of the law was that it pointed to salvation in Christ.

RESPOND

1. Which one of the two pictures of the law can you relate to and how?

2. Share a story of how your inability to save yourself moved you to rest in God's ability:

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 3: 26-29

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

KEY POINT

The gospel unites what sin has torn apart.

COMMENTARY

There is the belief today that everyone is a child of God. And it's true that God has created humanity uniquely in His image with dignity and priceless value. But what is mentioned in this passage is a much deeper sense of relationship. The gospel invites us into His family.

In the original text, "sons" was referenced instead of "children". Let's get our minds around what Paul meant when he originally wrote this. During that time, a son had privileges, rights and inheritance. In the ancient Roman context, a daughter had none. Her identity was found primarily in her being married and being a mother. Society viewed the women as outsiders. The gospel invited them in. Paul is saying that what Christ has done for us unites what culture, class and gender has separated. Salvation includes men and women. In Christ, women and men are children of God through faith in Christ.

Think about and celebrate the beauty of the words Paul is using to describe our relationship with God in Christ. Slow down and personalize what the power of God through the person and work of Jesus has done in your life:

- I am a child of God.
- I have put on Christ.
- I am united to Christ.
- I am part of God's people.
- I am a person with the promise of God.

RESPOND

1. Which of the above statements did you need to hear the most today - why?

2. What are you seeing God unite in your life through the gospel?

PRAY

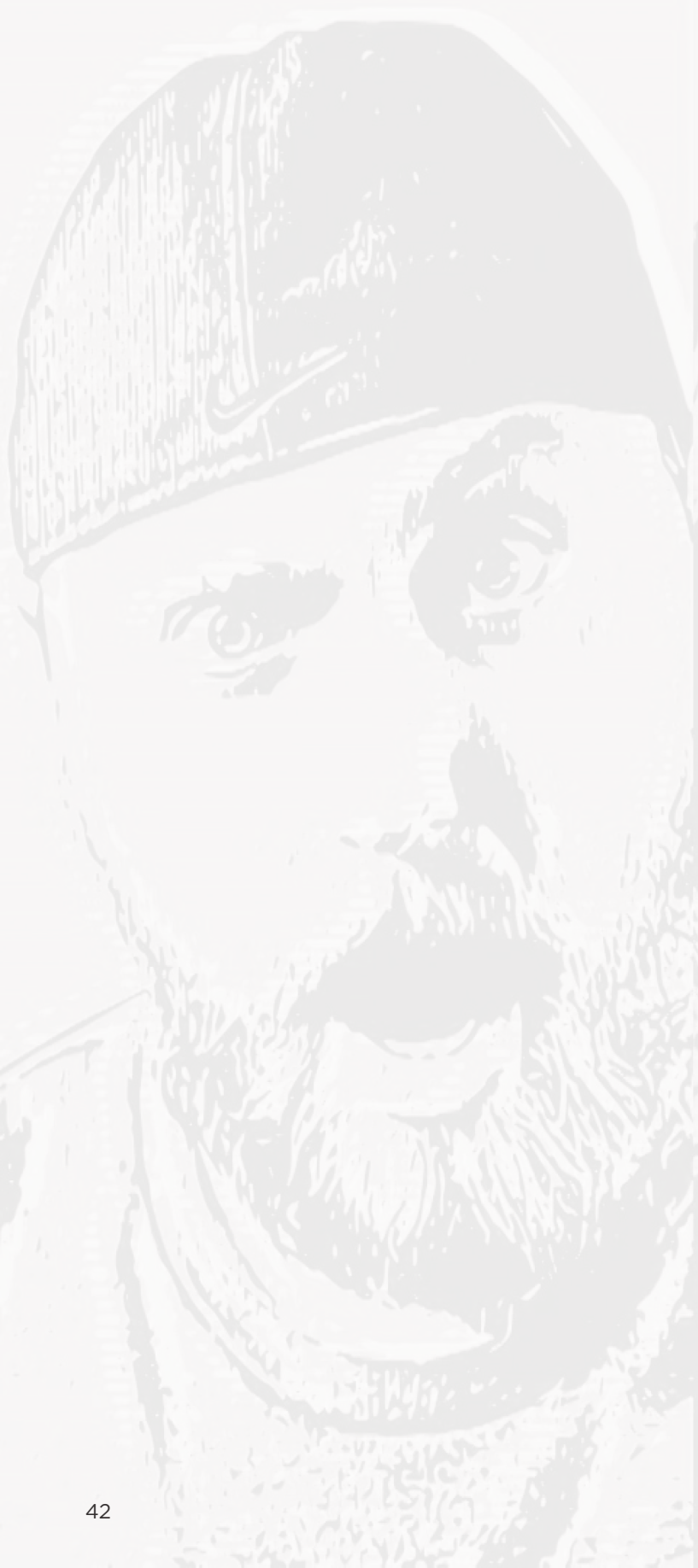
Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.



MEMORY VERSE

**CLEARLY NO ONE
WHO RELIES ON
THE LAW IS JUSTIFIED
BEFORE GOD, BECAUSE
“THE RIGHTEOUS
WILL LIVE BY FAITH.”**

GALATIANS 3:11





WHAT'S A GALATIAN?

WEEK 4
WE ARE CHILDREN
OF GOD

MEMORY VERSE

**SO YOU ARE NO
LONGER A SLAVE,
BUT GOD'S CHILD;
AND SINCE YOU ARE HIS CHILD,
GOD HAS MADE
YOU ALSO AN HEIR.**

GALATIANS 4:7

GALATIANS 4

God has given you the gospel, his goodness and his gifts to live in Christ and on purpose. God gave you these three powerful blessings to make Him greater on earth and in your life.

The way we steward the gospel each day will determine how we steward the goodness and gifts of God. If we forego grace and focus on performance, or hold a self-righteous attitude within us, we use a “try harder” approach to the goodness of God and take credit for the gifts he has given us. Rather than confidence in Christ, we will live with worry, anxiety and confusion about our standing in Christ.

Paul was perplexed that the Galatians would even think about exchanging what they already had in Christ for performing for the law. This week we will be reminded that salvation is about family. Through Christ we are God’s children. He is our heavenly Father, who has set us free from needing to perform in our relationship with him. We are fully known and completely loved by God through Christ. As you read and respond to the scripture this week, celebrate the joy of being in God’s family.

False teachers were telling the Galatian believers that in order to truly be connected to God, they needed to add to their faith and actually become Jewish. Their teaching added requirements to what Christ had given to free them. This notion was in direct contrast to the freedom of living by grace.

To live by works is to live as a slave. To live by faith is to find freedom. This is the choice we have each day in our walk with Christ.

MESSAGE NOTES

GALATIANS 4:1-7

What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world.

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

KEY POINT

Our first and greatest calling is to be children of God.

COMMENTARY

"Through the Son, we become God's children legally, receiving a new status; and through the Spirit, we become God's children experientially." - Tim Keller

Adopted into God's family - that is who we are and why being a Christian is such a profound privilege and blessing. Being a child of God is not something we try to become; it's who we already are.

Paul explains being adopted into God's family using the illustration of a young child who is the heir of a vast inheritance. Typically, in the Roman world, a young child was under the guardianship of a slave or household manager who tutored and trained them to take on the responsibility of the wealth of the family. This process continued through the age of 25 when at a defining moment, the child was recognized as an adult and given leadership and authority over the estate.

This illustration shows us how the law operated before Christ came. The people of God were under the guardianship of the law. They saw a future where they would have closeness and freedom with God, but were waiting for a time when the promised Messiah would come and provide it for them. The law was a harsh tutor over them. They were enslaved and burdened in trying to fully comply with it.

Remembering your status as a child of God will prevent you from forgetting what Christ has done. We are no longer "slaves to the elemental spiritual forces of the world." We are no longer under the tutor of a harsh law, we have come of age! We are adopted into the family of God.

RESPOND

1. What does being adopted into God's family mean to you?

2. How does it impact you that you are an heir of the most High God?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 4:8-16

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

I plead with you, brothers and sisters, become like me, for I became like you. You did me no wrong. As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you, and even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. Where, then, is your blessing of me now? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

KEY POINT

The gospel is more than enough.

COMMENTARY

Paul was part of the church plant in Galatia. He saw the gospel take root in the lives of the people there. He heard stories of salvation and transformation. The gospel was truly flourishing. People were resting in the person and work of Jesus in their lives and living as children of God. It was a loving and grace-based community.

Then someone entered in with the tempting message that people needed more. The gospel wasn't enough. They needed to reconnect with the practices and rituals of the Jewish faith to be "real" followers of Christ. This message broke down what God was building in them and set them on a dangerous and destructive course. In today's passage, Paul reconnects relationally with them. He reminds them of the close relationship they had with him when the church was formed. What he mentions is good for us to consider as well.

He called them to become like him – Paul shared how grace had radically changed his relationship with God and called them to live in the power and perspective of grace. He became like them – As a Jew, he reached across cultural and racial boundaries to bring them the gospel without all his cultural attachments added to it. He kept the gospel pure and simple, but applicable to every nation, tribe and language.

God brought them together through Paul's sickness. They welcomed him. Their kindness, care and hospitality won his heart. His response was that of love and affection for them. We aren't told exactly what Paul was sick with, although we may assume that it was an issue with his eyes (hint: "...you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me"). But what seemed like a pointless physical ailment was actually used by God to bring Paul to Galatia, not only for healing, but to advance the gospel. God wastes nothing and will not be limited by our weaknesses to bringing the power of the gospel to others.

RESPOND

1. How has God used kindness and hospitality from another person to win your heart?
2. How has God used a hard situation to connect you with others?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 4:17-20

Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may have zeal for them. It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always, not just when I am with you. My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

KEY POINT

Servant leadership is the only biblical pattern of leadership.

COMMENTARY

The false teachers who held the Galatian church hostage to the law flattered the church to win their loyalty. One of the ways they did this was to make them emotionally dependent on them. Paul used the words “they make much of you” which in the Greek means to “puff up” or “flatter.”

A grace-based church should not be focused on any one person other than Christ. Jesus gives us the example for leadership and there is no other model. Servant-leadership is the only option for a leader who follows Christ. Servant-leadership takes the posture of Jesus, and in humility counts others as more significant than themselves, and leads to serve others. Leading others in this way should take place inside as well as outside the church - in both secular and spiritual contexts.

The measure of a good leader is what they call you to. Do they use their personality to call you to themselves OR do they call you to Christ to make Him greater?

Paul called them to Christ. He was in anguish for Christ to be formed in them. His strong words came from a loving heart that was desperate for the Galatian church to turn back to Christ.

RESPOND

1. Who models servant-leadership for you? What do you see in them?

2. Who in your life are you praying would come back to Christ? What specifically do you long for God to do in them?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 4:21-25

Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children.

KEY POINT

The law you chose to live by will either enslave you or set you free.

COMMENTARY

By adding requirements of the law to the gospel of grace, the Galatian church restricted grace in their lives. Paul addresses this issue brilliantly by referring to the Old Testament promise in the life of Abraham and his wife Sarah and her servant, Hagar.

Here's the story from Genesis 12-17:

God promised Abraham he would have an heir and many descendants. Yet he and his wife were old and had no children. In their own thinking and scheming, Sarah gives her servant Hagar to Abraham to conceive a child. Their plan results in the birth of a child called Ishmael. This child was born from their works rather than a supernatural act of God. And the result of this human plan was not good at all. Sarah despised Hagar and Ishmael and sent them away into the wilderness. Ishmael would later become a leader of the Arab peoples who would fight with the Jews for centuries - a fight which continues even through today.

We can see what Paul is teaching us through the story of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar. In contrast to Ishmael's birth, Isaac was born to Sarah by the grace of God. The son of a barren woman (Sarah) was born through the promise of God, while the son of a fertile woman (Hagar) would be born from the flesh - or through the power of Abraham and Sarah's sinful plan. We see that when you choose to live by the Jewish law or any other law apart from grace, you will be enslaved, as the Jews were enslaved when this passage was written. The law you choose to live by - be it works or grace - will either enslave you or set you free. Trying to be your own personal savior will enslave you to the consequences of either that pride that comes with your success or failure and its despair. Trusting in the work of Jesus is the only thing that can set you free.

RESPOND

1. Why do you think rules and regulations are so tempting for people to live by, and grace, although free, is a challenge to live by?

2. What do you need be reminded of about God's grace on your best day or your worst day?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written:

“Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child;
shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labor;
because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband.”

Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.” Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

KEY POINT

God’s family has the heritage of freedom.

COMMENTARY

Paul shares the story of Sarah and Hagar as an analogy to highlight the importance of salvation being offered by grace through faith alone. The story of Hagar, the mother of Ishmael, and Sarah, the mother of Isaac, represents a picture of works and grace. Sarah, the barren one even into her nineties, received the blessing of the child of promise – Isaac. Hagar, the fertile one, was sent away into the wilderness (see Genesis 21) because her child represented Abraham’s attempt to produce his own heir. Hagar represents salvation by works. Sarah represents salvation by grace.

In his commentary on the book of Galatians, *Galatians for You*, Tim Keller writes: “This is a really interesting analogy. The gospel is that we do not try to attain a righteousness that our abilities can develop. Rather, we are to receive a righteousness provided through supernatural acts of God in history—the miraculous birth, sin-bearing death, and death-defeating resurrection of Christ. We need to rely on God—just as Abraham eventually learned that he needed the miraculous work of God to provide him with a son and heir. As Abraham needed to switch his faith from his own efforts to God’s supernatural work, so these Galatian Christians need to look back to Christ’s work, rather than at their own law-keeping efforts.”

The gospel stands in opposition to the regulations and rules of religion. Those who think their works or accomplishments give them a better standing with God are the ones who are enslaved the most by works. However, those who get to the end of themselves and choose to trust in the completed work of Jesus are the ones who live freed by grace.

RESPOND

1. When have you gotten to the end of yourself and found Jesus there? What changed in your life because of His grace?

2. Write a prayer giving thanks for God’s gift of grace.

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.



MEMORY VERSE

**SO YOU ARE NO
LONGER A SLAVE,
BUT GOD'S CHILD;
AND SINCE YOU ARE HIS CHILD,
GOD HAS MADE
YOU ALSO AN HEIR.**

GALATIANS 4:7



The background of the page features a faded, grayscale image of a woman on the left and a man wearing glasses on the right. The text is overlaid on this background.

WHAT'S A GALATIAN?

WEEK 5
WE FIND FREEDOM
IN CHRIST

MEMORY VERSE

**IT IS FOR FREEDOM THAT
CHRIST HAS SET US FREE.
STAND FIRM THEN,
AND DO NOT LET YOURSELVES
BE BURDENED AGAIN
BY A YOKE OF SLAVERY.**

GALATIANS 5:1

GALATIANS 5

Most world religions call followers to a moral code motivated by fear-based “or else” consequences. Biblical Christianity calls us into a loving relationship with God in the person of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. This relationship involves sanctification, a process in which God sets us apart to make us look more like Jesus.

Just like our salvation, what God calls us to as we follow Him is not to be done through our works but rather through the working of the Spirit in us. Our salvation is based on the supernatural person and power of Christ. Our sanctification is also based on the supernatural - the working of the Holy Spirit in us. Living by grace allows the Holy Spirit the freedom to move and work in our lives.

MESSAGE NOTES

GALATIANS 5:1-6

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

KEY POINT

God's grace in Christ has set us free to live freely.

COMMENTARY

The work of Christ is a work of liberation from death, sin and slavery. Paul uses freedom as a noun and a verb to show that it is both the end and the means in our walk with Christ. Literally, the translation from the Greek is "for freedom, Christ has freed you."

Christians have already been set free. The completed work of Christ on the cross and from the grave - his death and resurrection, have already freed those who believe. This means that we do not have to perform to try to become free. In claiming faith in Christ, but also adding the regulations of the law, the Galatian believers were ignoring their freedom and becoming enslaved to works. Paul is teaching that by exchanging works for grace, they lose their freedom in Christ and invite other issues into their lives.

The choice to live by works will lead to:

- Submission to slavery
- Christ being of no advantage to you
- Living out of obligation
- Living away from the life of Christ
- Falling away from grace
- A fading hope and confidence
- Faith and love replaced by works and self-righteousness

RESPOND

1. How have you seen the issues listed at the end of today's study in your life when you have lived by performance and works instead of grace?

2. How has living by grace provided freedom for you in your walk with Christ?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 5:7-12

You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

KEY POINT

A little bit of works will infect a whole lot of grace.

COMMENTARY

Multiple times, Paul compared the Christian life to a marathon – running a race. There’s a path to follow and a prize that is given. In this passage, he shows that when the Galatian believers first received the gospel, they were running well. But then something happened. Someone cut in on them and led them off the course and into danger.

Quite dramatically, Paul states that those who “cut in” on their race to lead them astray should “cut (emasculate) themselves.” In a moment of sarcasm, he was suggesting they cut the entire male organ off! This is his strongest pronouncement against the false teachers in the Galatian churches.

Circumcision was a physical act that revealed a spiritual reality. It revealed a “cutting away” of sin and showed a connection to a covenant relationship with God. It was never meant to symbolize the work of man, but rather the unconditional promise of God. Therefore, circumcision in light of Christ’s work on the cross makes no sense. Adding works to faith is like adding yeast (leaven) to dough. A little bit of works will infect a whole lot of grace.

Every runner who wants to improve their pace will assess what is weighing them down or keeping them from running better. They don’t carry heavy things that may slow their pace, but run in a way that will give them the best chance at winning the prize. Likewise, in your race, don’t weigh your faith down with works. Run without baggage and in the freedom of the gospel.

RESPOND

1. Are there any added weights or strongholds that you’re carrying as you run the race with Christ?

2. What distractions keep you from running the race with Christ?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

KEY POINT

We are free from sin NOT free to sin.

COMMENTARY

Called to freedom. This is the essence of the Christian life. Through Christ we have been set free from our sin and ourselves in order to freely love, forgive, serve and share with the people God places in front of us. This call is not for a few of us, this is a calling for all of us. We are brothers and sisters called by God to freedom.

As you think about living freely, you might be tempted to live however you want to live. We need to be careful that we don't mistake "freedom in Christ" for "freedom to live however I want." Those who live however they want will be enslaved to their desires and passions, causing themselves and others great pain. Paul makes it very clear what this newfound freedom is all about.

What freedom in Christ is, and what it is not:

It's freedom **from sin**, NOT freedom **to sin**.

It's freedom to **give love** to others, NOT freedom **to take advantage** of others.

It's freedom to **live godly lives**, NOT freedom to live **your own way**.

RESPOND

1. What does it look like to love your neighbor as yourself?

2. Secular society is not convinced that loving others as ourselves brings freedom. What are some things you have learned about freedom by loving others?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 5:16-18

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

KEY POINT

Being led by the Spirit will lead you away from the flesh.

COMMENTARY

As we live by the power of the Spirit in our lives, there is going to be a struggle. This struggle will be between what we want for ourselves and what Christ lived, died and rose from the grave to give us. Paul calls it the war between the flesh and the Spirit.

In this passage, Paul talks about “desires of the flesh.” The Greek word for “desires” that Paul uses has the meaning of “an overwhelming desire.” In other words, the issue is not that we should not have desires, but rather it’s the over-desire for things that opposes the work of the Spirit. Good things can become “god-like” things in our lives.

- A desire for a happy family instead changes to a focus on giving the appearance of success through your kid’s accomplishments.
- A desire to provide for your family turns into materialism when you feel value and significance by how much money you make or what you own.
- A desire to serve at church becomes a prideful comparison of yourself and others and their lack of service.

Being controlled by the flesh feeds the feeling that we must have this or that to be content. It reinforces the lie that Christ is not enough for us.

Any desire that causes us to drift away from finding our joy or hope in Christ is a desire of the flesh. Paul states that to gratify the flesh in this way is to deny the Spirit. Those who live by the flesh will be controlled by performance and by passions. The flesh does not trust in God’s grace or goodness – it will always depend on itself, which is why we need the Spirit to work in us. The way to freedom is the way of the Spirit.

RESPOND

1. How would you explain the presence of the Spirit in your life?

2. How has the Spirit of God lead you away from an “overwhelming desire”?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

KEY POINT

The list you live by will determine the power you live by.

COMMENTARY

Take a look at the two lists that Paul gives us to compare and contrast.

The first list is the list of the flesh. This list is not all-encompassing but reflects common manifestations of “the works of the flesh.” These stem from a heart that is “over-desiring” things created by God for our good (sex, relationships, worship, food and provision). Instead, the heart makes them into idols in themselves (sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of rage, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and the like) when we seek to satisfy our out-of-control passions. For generations, the list of the flesh has caused more strife, hurt, pain and brokenness than we can ever fully grasp. Its effects will continue until Christ returns. The world is longing to be delivered from the flesh, but few know that it is only through the Spirit that we can be delivered.

The second list is the list of the Spirit. This list does not detail the totality of the character of God but gives a glimpse of the godly character that the Spirit is working to accomplish in each believer. The only way for your life to bear fruit in this list is through the power of the Spirit. The work of Christ has set us free from sin and death. The work of the Spirit sets us apart for the goodness and godliness of Christ. Paul uses the word “fruit” to describe these qualities because they are the natural result of abiding in Christ. This second list, the fruit of the Spirit, is what everyone longs for in their lives. However, this fruit is harvested only by the work of God in the believer. Laws are made to bring evil to account or to restore justice. No law is made to contain or control the fruit of the Spirit.

RESPOND

1. Which item in the list of the flesh do you long to be delivered from?

2. Which fruit of the Spirit would you say is most needed in your life right now and why?

PRAY

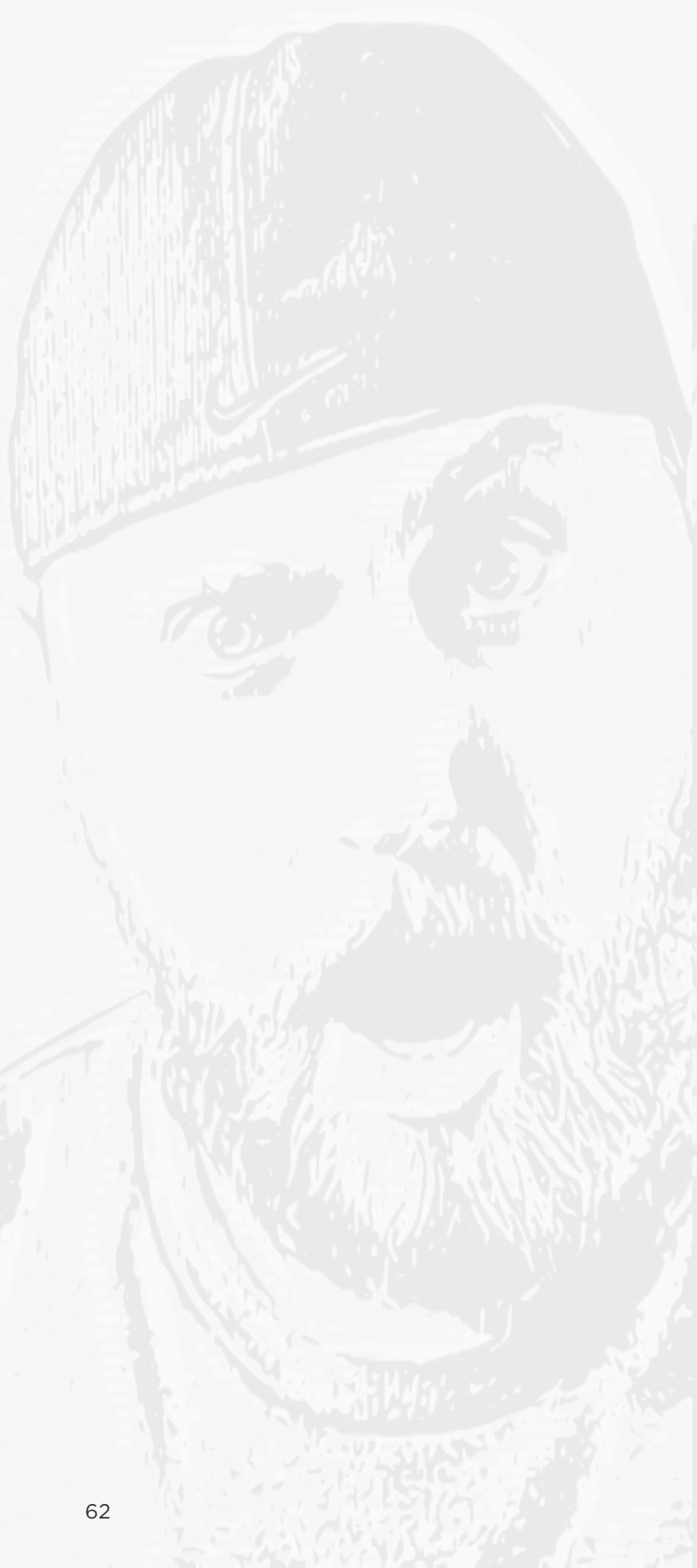
Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.



MEMORY VERSE

**IT IS FOR FREEDOM THAT
CHRIST HAS SET US FREE.
STAND FIRM THEN,
AND DO NOT LET YOURSELVES
BE BURDENED AGAIN
BY A YOKE OF SLAVERY.**

GALATIANS 5:1





WHAT'S A GALATIAN?

WEEK 6
**WE ARE PEOPLE WHO BRING
GOOD NEWS**

MEMORY VERSE

**MAY I NEVER BOAST EXCEPT
IN THE CROSS OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST,
THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD
HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME,
AND I TO THE WORLD.**

GALATIANS 6:14

GALATIANS 6

Paul gives a beautiful picture of a community of grace where brothers and sisters in joyful, life-giving community bear one another's burdens. Throughout this week, we are going to look at the benefits of being connected in community. The gospel connects us to the Spirit of God and to the people of God to grow us in grace and provide life-giving freedom.

Our study of Galatians approaches the finish line. Paul literally takes the quill from his scribe and writes in his own handwriting to emphasize the integrity and power of the gospel. As you read through the scripture this week, we will examine the following principles about the gospel that reestablishes us in grace and recreates us from the inside, out.

MESSAGE NOTES

GALATIANS 6:1-5

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, for each one should carry their own load.

KEY POINT

Life-giving community builds humility.

COMMENTARY

Bearing each other's burdens means that we come alongside each other and help each other grow in Christ. Bearing each other's burdens is greatly influenced by the view we hold of ourselves. Pride manifests itself in overt as well as covert ways. Holding a high view of self-importance will keep you from humbling yourself to come near another person and bear a burden. On the other hand, holding a low view of yourself can also be a form of pride. Your pride will keep you from receiving help from God and others. Each of these manifestations of pride limits the community of believers from demonstrating the love of God to each other.

The instructions in this passage seem to be at odds with each other. How can we bear each other's burdens while at the same time carry our own loads? What Paul is revealing to us is that each of us is carrying our own unique set of baggage. The load I carry is not the same burden you carry, but we are all called to come near and help without comparing or competing with each other.

The truth is that some of us are carrying very heavy burdens right now and are in need of more help than others in this season of life. Be careful not to think that others are the only ones who need help, while you can manage your problems on your own. We all carry a burden and need each other. When we practice this balance, we will be set free from two pitfalls: comparing with others, and keeping our burdens hidden. When we bear each other's burdens, it keeps us humble in our view of self, and generous in helping others.

RESPOND

1. How has bearing the burdens of others led to a greater pride in you?

2. How has bearing the burdens of others led to a greater humility in you?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 6:6-10

Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

KEY POINT

Life-giving community endures through struggle.

COMMENTARY

There is a time of waiting in between planting and harvesting – sowing and reaping. What you plant in the ground is small and seems insignificant compared to what you will harvest. However, within the small seed lies a powerful reminder of the potential each act of kindness and goodness can have in your life and the lives of those you serve.

After you plant a seed, you don't see instant results. It takes time for the plant to take root, grow up and mature. When you practice the character of God in your life, it's like you're planting a seed. For example, being patient with a challenging person in a difficult situation won't always have instant results. But if you do not give up, the enduring practice of patience will bear a huge benefit in your life and the relationship.

On the other hand, you may act out in the flesh and it may help you to escape a hard situation or cover for yourself in the moment. But over time, continually living in the flesh and neglecting the character traits God wants for you will bear a harvest of sin in your life.

When Paul says "Let us not grow weary," he is reminding us that doing good is going to need endurance. It may take a while to see the benefits, but God is always true to his Word and to his character. The wait is always worth the harvest.

RESPOND

1. What character of Christ has God been developing in you? How has it been a struggle?

2. What was a character quality that you practiced, but wasn't noticeable until you practiced it over time and it became part of who you are?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!

Those who want to impress people by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. Not even those who are circumcised keep the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your circumcision in the flesh.

KEY POINT

A good showing of the flesh results in a bad showing of the gospel.

COMMENTARY

The more we focus on the external, the less we allow God to recreate the internal. External things can be seen and approved by others. Rarely do others see the internal condition of our hearts. For those focused on the external, God sees our hearts through the grace of the gospel as His remedy for our internal issue of sin.

When typing on phones or keyboards, we tend to use emojis, exclamation marks or capitalized letters to emphasize a point. In the passages we have studied so far, Paul was most likely dictating his letter through a scribe. However, in verse 11, picture him taking the quill with his own hand and using capitalized letters to defend the offensive nature of the gospel. He's not being arrogant but instead authoritative. He wants them to know that he is viewing their drift back into works-based salvation as a personal attack on the gospel.

Tim Keller explains:

Paul has already said that the preaching of the gospel is terribly offensive to the human heart (5:11-12). People find it insulting to be told that they are too weak and sinful to do anything to contribute to their salvation. The gospel is offensive to liberal-minded people, who charge the gospel with intolerance, because it states that the only way to be saved is through the cross. The gospel is offensive to conservative-minded people, because it states that, without the cross, "good" people are in as much trouble as "bad" people. Ultimately, the gospel is offensive because the cross stands against all schemes of self-salvation. The world appreciates "religion" and "morality" in general. The world thinks that moral religion is a good thing for society. But the world is offended by the cross. So people who love the cross are "persecuted." (Keller, Timothy. Galatians For You (God's Word For You) (p. 168). The Good Book Company)

RESPOND

1. How do you see the world being resistant to the gospel?
2. What part of the gospel offends you? Or puts you on the defensive? Why?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 6:14-15

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation.

KEY POINT

The cross reshapes our personal identities.

COMMENTARY

The beauty of the gospel shines amidst the horrors of sin. Picture Christ being crucified on the Roman cross. Crucifixion was a horror to those who lived in the first century, yet Paul found his primary identity in the cross of Christ. When Christ was on the cross, Christ was there on the cross for us.

It is common today to reject the necessity of the cross of Christ by boasting in humanity's progress or accomplishments. This is nothing new, as we can see the first century church was also struggling with this. Paul is demonstrating that he chose to boast in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and claim the identity of a sinner saved by grace.

Remember the major issue of the church in Galatia? Jewish believers came in and tried to add works to the grace that saved them. Circumcision was the sign of the covenant promise of God for the people of God in the Old Testament. Paul is showing that circumcision, an outward sign, was replaced when the cross of Christ became the new identity for the believer. In the life of a believer, no outward sign should replace the inward reality of being a new creation in Jesus Christ.

By God's grace through faith, everything about us is changed because of the work of Christ in the gospel. The gospel redeems our past failures and imperfections when our Savior Jesus died on the cross for our sins. The gospel also restores our present, providing us a new identity and relationship with God and others. And the gospel recreates our future with the promise of eternal life and a complete restoration of all things to the way God intended them to be. Through faith in Christ, God is redeeming, restoring, and recreating everything about us from the inside out.

RESPOND

1. In what ways do you find your identity in the cross? What about your life with Christ began on the inside (in your heart and mind) and then moved to the outside (in words or actions)?

2. What in your life needs to decrease so that Christ can increase?

PRAY

Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.

GALATIANS 6:16-18

Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God. From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

KEY POINT

The gospel begins and continues in grace.

COMMENTARY

“Don’t mess with me on this,” Paul is saying. “I’m being persecuted because I stand preaching and defending the integrity of the gospel of grace.” The “marks of Jesus” mentioned by him most likely refer to scars from beatings or floggings he received because of persecution. These “marks” are not there because he has been famous or lived a comfortable life as a believer. The marks were the result of his refusal to back down and compromise the gospel in the midst of those who were offended by it.

Paul closes with the word that he has been defining and illustrating over the course of his letter: grace. It is only by grace through faith that we begin a relationship with Christ, and it will be by grace alone that we will continue in a walk with him. Grace unites us to each other and allows us to joyfully celebrate the glory of Christ. Grace makes all the difference in our hearts and in our world.

RESPOND

1. If you had to sum up the message of the entire letter of Galatians in just a few words, what would they be?

2. What’s a Galatian?

PRAY

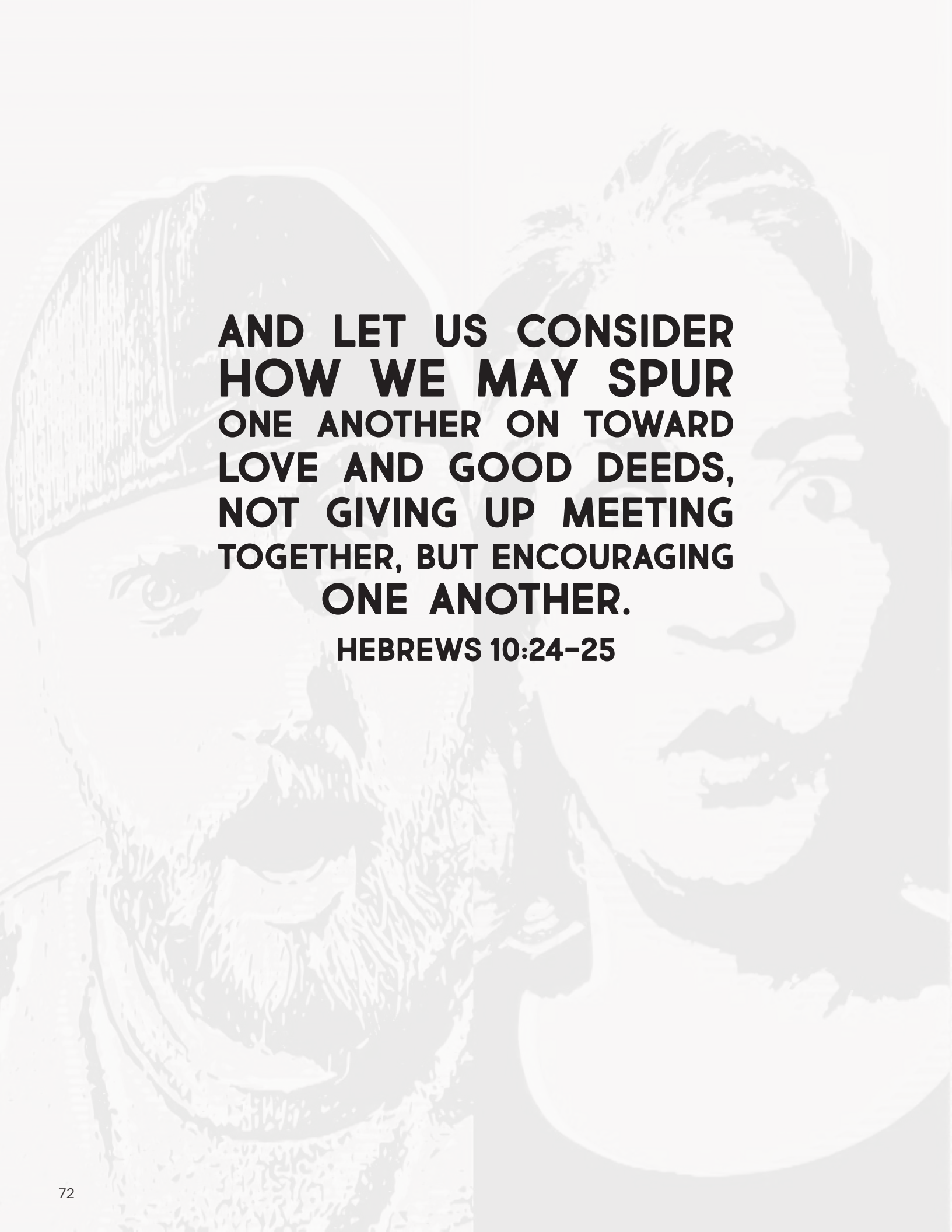
Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield.



MEMORY VERSE

**MAY I NEVER BOAST EXCEPT
IN THE CROSS OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST,
THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD
HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME,
AND I TO THE WORLD.**

GALATIANS 6:14



**AND LET US CONSIDER
HOW WE MAY SPUR
ONE ANOTHER ON TOWARD
LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS,
NOT GIVING UP MEETING
TOGETHER, BUT ENCOURAGING
ONE ANOTHER.**

HEBREWS 10:24-25



WHAT'S A GALATIAN?

**FACILITATOR
GUIDE**

**“AND LET US CONSIDER HOW WE MAY SPUR ONE
ANOTHER ON TOWARD LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS,
NOT GIVING UP MEETING TOGETHER,
BUT ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER”
HEBREWS 10:24-25**

THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the journey through Galatians with your small group. You are the personal connection for your group members to Grace Fellowship. You are discipling and shepherding as you:

- **Care** for each person through regular connections
- **Pray** for and with your group
- **Guide** your members to **take next steps** to grow in their walk with Jesus.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

Thank you for your leadership.

FOCUS

The focus for leading a healthy small group is sharing life through the lens of Scripture. The aim for each week is to allow your group to read God’s Word and to connect the truth of God to the realities of life. Sharing life includes:

- Christ-centered conversation marked by open and honest dialogue that makes the scriptures relevant to daily life
- Bearing one another’s burdens and celebrating one another’s joys
- Practicing the 7 Rhythms of group life
- Lots of fun, support and care.

7 RHYTHMS OF GROUP LIFE

The definition of rhythm is a strong, regular and repeated pattern. Repeating these rhythms are what make your group unique from other types of relationships people have. You guide the practice of 7 rhythms as fits the experience and character of your group.

- Daily Devotion - Read & reflect on God’s Word daily.
- Serve the Local Community- Work together to meet needs,
- Sacrificial Generosity - Give because the Gospel is worth it.
- Prayer - Talk with God all the time.
- Freedom from Strongholds - Confess your sins to one another.
- Reflect on Your Story - Share what Jesus has done in your life.
- Celebration - Rejoice together always.

There are suggestions within this leader guide to help you including prayer and serve experiences.

GROUP TIME

Most often group time is 1.5-2 hours and includes:

- Connecting with each other- 10-15 minutes to gather, check in, get settled, announcements.
- Study- 40-60 minutes to read the passage aloud together and go through questions. Pay attention, first and foremost, as to how Scripture may be relating to your group member's lives, their personal takeaways, and questions.
- Use the questions from the study to help the flow of conversation, but keep in mind, getting through all the questions is not the goal.
- Care & Prayer - 15-20 minutes to hear prayer requests and pray. Record the requests and track the answers to prayer throughout the weeks.

COVID-19

It is for you and your group to decide the safety guidelines during COVID-19. Many groups will meet online using a platform like Zoom. If choosing to meet together in-person, it is important to have an understanding among the members about masks, social distancing, hand sanitizing and food. Grace Fellowship recommends following StaySafeMN <https://staysafe.mn.gov/individuals-families/social-gatherings.jsp>

GALATIANS 1 - NO OTHER GOD

REVIEW THE SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Galatians 1:10b - If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

READ THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE.

(Have people read aloud who are comfortable to do so.)

1. What is happening in this passage? Audience? Struggles? Encouragements?
2. What is ALWAYS true about God from this passage?
3. How does this passage relate to you right now? (Take note of how your group is connecting God's Word to what they are experiencing in their lives right now.)
4. What question(s) from your workbook challenged and/or impacted you the most this week?
(All the questions from the week's study are on the following page.)

RHYTHMS SUGGESTION:

Daily Devotions. Time set aside each day to read a portion of Galatians and work on the daily questions. When done daily, the weekly sessions will not be overwhelming. By the daily questions, group participants are prepared for discussions. This is also a time set aside to pray for others in the small group.

WEEK 1 QUESTIONS

DAY 1

1. Taking Paul's example, how would you explain your calling from Christ?
2. By whose authority do you share the gospel and how does this make a difference?

DAY 2

1. Without a grounding in the gospel, we will stumble with our performance and try to be our own personal 'saviors'. In your walk with Christ, what (apart from Him) have you been tempted to place your confidence in?
2. When do you need to be reminded about the gospel, that can help you when you are tempted to place your confidence in your own works or practices?

DAY 3

1. "If I were trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." What subtle issues in your heart keep you more focused on winning the approval of others rather than standing and speaking as a servant of Christ?
2. As you think about the agenda of your day, what challenge or opportunity do you see where you need to specifically take the posture of a "servant of Christ?"

DAY 4

1. What things are free but priceless in your life?
2. How does receiving something priceless for free, like the gospel, change the way you live?

DAY 5

1. Looking back on the positive or challenging experiences of your past, in what ways can you see how God worked in your life to prepare you to serve him now?
2. What is something God is doing through you that is humbling to you, but gives Him more of the credit and glory?

GALATIANS 2 - WE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

REVIEW THE SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

READ THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE

(Have people read aloud who are comfortable to do so.)

1. What is happening in this passage? Audience? Struggles? Encouragements?
2. What is ALWAYS true about God from this passage?
3. How does this passage relate to you right now? (Take note of how your group is connecting God's Word to what they are experiencing in their lives right now.)
4. What question(s) from your workbook challenged and/or impacted you the most this week?
(All the questions from the week's study are on the following page.)

RHYTHMS SUGGESTION

Serve the local community. This is the first of two suggested group experiences. If you have previously served alongside others then you know of the benefits and blessings. In addition to the outward blessing for the recipient(s), the group members typically bond over the shared experience. Due to the current pandemic, we are in an unusual situation of mandated social distancing which prohibits many opportunities to serve together. Consider serving individually or in pairs and reporting back to the group.

Example on next page.

WEEK 2 QUESTIONS

DAY 1

1. Do you remember a time when you felt out of place and someone took the time to include you in a group or meeting? How did God use that experience to deepen your relationships or grow you?
2. Who is in your life - a person or people group - that you have pushed to the margins and ignored? What is God leading you to do?

DAY 2

1. How have you seen God use kindness and generosity to tear down walls that divide people of different races, beliefs and cultures?
2. This principle of love tearing down walls that divide works today. If you have someone in your life who you're at odds with, consider praying and serving them in a helpful way today.
Name the person or people group.

DAY 3

1. What is an area of conduct in your life that you are struggling to practice consistently in line with the truth of the gospel?
2. Confrontation is never easy - these conversations are crucial but difficult. Think about how Paul confronted Peter about his lack of "straight-walking" with grace. If you were Peter, what attitude would you need to hold that would help you listen to Paul's words?

DAY 4

1. How would you explain "justification by faith" to someone who has never been to church before?
2. Think about the conflict between works and faith. What has been your personal challenge in living by grace rather than works?

DAY 5

1. What did you need to be reminded about your identity in Christ today?
2. What could you remind another follower of Christ about their identity in Christ today?

SERVE EXPERIENCE

BEFORE THE SERVE EXPERIENCE

We're about to read one of the most well-known parables recorded in the Bible. The parable of the Good Samaritan. During Jesus' time, Jews did not associate with Samaritans. Jesus begins telling the story of a man who was walking down one of the most dangerous roads of that time. So dangerous in fact, it was nicknamed "bloody pass." It was a road known for ambushes and thievery. We aren't told whether the man was a Judean or a Samaritan. In fact, we aren't told anything about him. It's as if who he was or what he had done or not done was completely irrelevant. The man was ambushed and left for dead on the road. Read what happens next as three individuals pass by him on the road.

Read Luke 10:29-37.

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Imagine you are part of this story. Who are you in the story? The beaten man? The Levi? The Priest? The Samaritan? Maybe you're the one asking Jesus who your neighbor is. Or perhaps you're a spectator observing from the sidelines.

What stands out to you in this story? Both the Priest and the Levite were people who were very much involved with church. They knew the law and the commands of scripture very well and yet they didn't stop. Maybe they were rushing off and didn't feel they had the time to stop. Perhaps they were afraid they would also be ambushed if they stopped and helped. So what's different about the Samaritan? What does he do differently?

Who needs you to stop for them today? Be aware of those who may need a listening ear or a friendly smile today. Don't think about what you need to do later today or what you're making for dinner tonight. Is God calling you to slow down and be aware of others needs today? Be present where you are and serve those around you with compassion, mercy and love.

SERVE PROJECT

During COVID, this may or may not be as a group. Try one of these options:

- Identify a neighbor or neighbor that needs care (mowing the lawn, clearing gutters, Trimming bushes, a nourishing meal).
- Write notes of encouragement to a group of people (teachers, first responders, youth, etc) and deliver with smiles.
- Go to a care facility and do “camp sing-a-long” outside the windows of residents.

GROUP DEBRIEF

Share the serving project.

- What did you see? What did you learn?
- What are some of the emotions you experienced?
- Where did you see God today?
- Where did you hear his voice?
- Where did you see the characteristics of God on display?

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

We don't know why the Samaritan stopped but he did. The passage says “He went to him.” He literally stopped in his tracks and crossed the dangerous road to reach the man. He allowed himself to be interrupted. The Samaritan valued the man more than himself and his own needs, timelines, agenda, etc. He considered the beaten man before himself.

Who in your own life do you need to stop and care for today? Who needs you to slow down and cross the road for them? Who can you step off the curb and cross the street for in your community?

Your acts of service today through smiles, conversations, etc., are extensions of Jesus' great love for you and all you came in contact with.

GALATIANS 3 - WE LIVE BY FAITH

REVIEW THE SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Galatians 3:11 Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.”

READ THIS WEEK’S PASSAGE

(Have people read aloud who are comfortable to do so.)

1. What is happening in this passage? Audience? Struggles? Encouragements?
2. What is ALWAYS true about God from this passage?
3. How does this passage relate to you right now? (Take note of how your group is connecting God’s Word to what they are experiencing in their lives right now.)
4. What question(s) from your workbook challenged and/or impacted you the most this week?
(All the questions from the week’s study are on the following page.)

RHYTHMS SUGGESTION

Sacrificial Generosity. Jesus taught that we cannot serve two masters; we must choose between God and money. The way we manage our finances is a reflection of our relationship with God. Ask your small group to consider how giving regularly is an act of living by faith.

WEEK 3 QUESTIONS

DAY 1

1. The gospel is your on-going source of acceptance with God. What other “personal saviors” have swayed you from this truth?
2. What do you believe about the gospel that helps address the “personal saviors” in your life?

DAY 2

1. What does it look like when you are living by the law?
2. What does it look like when you are living by faith?

DAY 3

1. Name a promise you have made. What did it require of you to keep the promise?
2. What promises of God do you see played out in your own history?

DAY 4

1. Which one of the two pictures of the law can you relate to and how?
2. Share a story of how your inability to save yourself moved you to rest in God's ability:

DAY 5

1. Which of the above statements did you need to hear the most today - why?
2. What are you seeing God unite in your life through the gospel?

GALATIANS 4 - WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD

REVIEW THE SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Galatians 4:7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

READ THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE

(Have people read aloud who are comfortable to do so.)

1. What is happening in this passage? Audience? Struggles? Encouragements?
2. What is ALWAYS true about God from this passage?
3. How does this passage relate to you right now? (Take note of how your group is connecting God's Word to what they are experiencing in their lives right now.)
4. What question(s) from your workbook challenged and/or impacted you the most this week?
(All the questions from the week's study are on the following page.)

RHYTHMS SUGGESTION

Prayer. This will be the second group experience that your group will engage in. The Prayer Experience includes one hour of individual prayer and one hour of group debrief. Some may choose to participate in fasting. Fasting does increase the intensity of the prayer experience. Find guidance for your Prayer Experience on the next page.

Plan with your Prayer Experience - determine location, day and time.

WEEK 4 QUESTIONS**DAY 1**

1. What does being adopted into God's family mean to you?
2. How are you impacted knowing you that you are an heir of the most High God?

DAY 2

1. How has God used kindness and hospitality from another person to win your heart?
2. How has God used a hard situation to connect you with others?

DAY 3

1. Who models servant- leadership for you? What do you see in them?
2. Who in your life are you praying would come back to Christ? What specifically do you long for God to do in them?

DAY 4

1. Why do you think rules and regulations are so tempting for people to live by, and grace, although free, is a challenge to live by?
2. What do you need be reminded of about God's grace on your best day or your worst day?

DAY 5

1. When have you gotten to the end of yourself and found Jesus there? What changed in your life because of His grace?
2. Write a prayer giving thanks for God's gift of grace.

PRAYER EXPERIENCE

BEFORE THEY CALL I WILL ANSWER, WHILE THEY ARE STILL SPEAKING I WILL HEAR. ISAIAH 65:24

The Church of Scotland defines prayer this way: “Prayer is an offering of our desires unto God for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies.” This summarizes well the components of prayer. Our hearts should engage prayer as a way to aligning our desires with God’s will.

PREPARING FOR YOUR PRAYER TIME

- Bring to your heart and mind areas.
- Come to the prayer time unencumbered, without your to-do lists or thoughts of what you have scheduled next.
- Don’t bring a mobile device or other distractions.
- Consider fasting prior to your prayer time.

NOTES ON FASTING

IN order to make the most of your prayer experience with you Rooted group, we recommend that you spend time preparing to hear from God. One of the disciplines that helps with this is fasting. Fasting is a way we eliminate noise and distractions of the world around us and focus more completely on hearing God’s voice. While we fast, we are reminded and become more aware of our dependence on God. By fasting, we intensify our prayers, place ourselves in a position of submission and become more sensitive to hearing God’s voice.

GROUP PRAYER TIME (30 MINUTES)

- Begin with a devotional or read Scripture (Psalms 8,19,34,121 and/or 138 are great options) to prepare your heart and mind for time in prayer.
- Move into a space
- Talk about what prayer is, why it’s important discipline, and what your hopes are for this experience.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYER TIME (60 MINUTES)

- Begin Prayer. Take time to listen to what God wants to say to you. You can use the following example of prayer structure and content. Remember prayer is a personal discipline. This is only an example of one way to pray. Write down any thoughts that come to mind so you can refer back and see how God answered your prayers.
- Praise/Thanksgiving/Worship
- Confession
- Ask:
 - Family, friends, specific needs from your journal
 - For you rooted group requests
 - For your church and the Church in the world, to accomplish His will on earth as it is in Heaven
 - For your purpose
 - For those with whom God wants you to tell our story
 - Our community
 - Our nation and leaders
 - The world and world leaders
 - What God wants your group to do, where you should serve
 - People in whom God wants you to invest
 - In all things, pray that you are within His will

DEBRIEF AND CELEBRATION (60 MINUTES)

After your prayer time, gather together. Share how you heard God's voice, what this focused prayer time meant to you, and how it affected you. Share how the fasting time prepared you, and whether your prayer time felt more intense from this discipline. Share any other relevant feelings or revelations from God during this time in fasting and prayer, and if you want to continue to add this to your life on a more regular basis.

GALATIANS 5 - WE FIND FREEDOM IN CHRIST

REVIEW THE SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Galatians 5:1. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

READ THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE

(Have people read aloud who are comfortable to do so.)

1. What is happening in this passage? Audience? Struggles? Encouragements?
2. What is ALWAYS true about God from this passage?
3. How does this passage relate to you right now? (Take note of how your group is connecting God's Word to what they are experiencing in their lives right now.)
4. What question(s) from your workbook challenged and/or impacted you the most this week?
(All the questions from the week's study are on the following page.)

RHYTHMS SUGGESTION

Freedom from Strongholds. Plan to separate into smaller groups (men with men, women with women) and give an opportunity to confess any sin stronghold that has taken root in your life. Pray for one another by naming strongholds and pray for others in the group to be set free from anything that hold them in bondage.

Strongholds / Freedom Exercise on the next page.

WEEK 5 QUESTIONS**DAY 1**

1. How have you seen the issues listed at the end of today's study in your life when you have lived by performance and works instead of grace?
2. How has living by grace provided freedom for you in your walk with Christ?

DAY 2

1. Are there any added weights or strongholds that you're carrying as you run the race with Christ?
2. What distractions keep you from running the race with Christ?

DAY 3

1. What does it look like to love your neighbor as yourself?
2. Secular society is not convinced that loving others as ourselves brings freedom. What are some things you have learned about freedom by loving others?

DAY 4

1. How would you explain the presence of the Spirit in your life?
2. How has the Spirit of God lead you away from an "overwhelming desire"?

DAY 5

1. Which item in the list of the flesh do you long to be delivered from?
2. Which fruit of the Spirit would you say is most needed in your life right now and why?

STRONGHOLDS/ FREEDOM

Father,

I come before you in the Name of Jesus. I recognize the power You have given me by the shed blood of Jesus to demolish spiritual strongholds in my life. I confess that I have given a foothold to sin and I renounce the stronghold of _____ (Stronghold) .

I claim the truth of _____ (Corresponding Freedom) by the authority of the Name of Jesus Christ. Through your power, I take back the ground I surrendered to the enemy. I pray You will enable me to trust and obey Your Holy Spirit so that this area of my life will be in conformity to the image of Christ. Amen.

STRONGHOLDS	FREEDOM
<p>BITTERNESS EXAMPLES: resentment, hate, unforgiveness, anger, violence, revenge LIE: I have power and protection when I don't forgive others.</p>	<p>FORGIVENESS II Corinthians 5:17-19</p>
<p>CONTROL EXAMPLES: manipulation, lack of trust, worry, seeking recognition LIE: I can control my own life.</p>	<p>SURRENDER Matthew 16:24-25</p>
<p>IDOLATRY EXAMPLES: selfishness, greed, apathy, pride, stubbornness, vanity, materialism LIE: If I just had a little more, I would be content.</p>	<p>CONTENTMENT Matthew 6:25-26</p>
<p>DESPAIR EXAMPLES: hopelessness, self-pity, isolation, addictions, self-harm LIE: Even God has abandoned me.</p>	<p>HOPE Psalm 34:17-18</p>
<p>JEALOUSY EXAMPLES: spitefulness, gossip/slander, betrayal, critical/judgmental spirit LIE: I am entitled to all that I have.</p>	<p>GRATEFULNESS I Chronicles 16:34 Matthew 7:9-11</p>
<p>SEXUAL IMMORALITY EXAMPLES: lust, seductiveness, fornication, adultery, pornography LIE: I am free to satisfy all my desires.</p>	<p>PURITY Galatians 5:13-16, 19-21 Genesis 2:22-25</p>

STRONGHOLDS	FREEDOM
<p>FALSE TEACHING & RELIGIONS EXAMPLES: occult, Ouija board, invoking evil or dead spirits, fortune-telling, astrology, cults LIE: What I believe to be true is more trustworthy than God.</p>	<p>GOD'S WORD John 1:1-5 John 14:6-7</p>
<p>INSECURITY EXAMPLES: inferiority, inadequacy, timidity, withdrawal, pleasing people not God, lack of trust/worry, wrong relationships LIE: I am less than everyone around me.</p>	<p>SECURITY IN CHRIST Ephesians 2:10 Romans 8:38-39</p>
<p>REJECTION EXAMPLES: seeking acceptance, feeling unworthy, withdrawal, additions, compulsions LIE: I am unlovable.</p>	<p>ACCEPTANCE Psalm 139:14 John 3:16</p>
<p>DECEIT EXAMPLES: lying, delusions, rationalizing, wrong doctrine, misuse of Scripture LIE: My actions are justified if it gets me what I need.</p>	<p>TRUTHFULNESS John 8:32 Psalm 23:1 Examples: phobias, fear</p>
<p>FEAR EXAMPLES: phobias, compulsions, perfectionism, fear of failure LIE: Being afraid keeps me from harm.</p>	<p>TRUST IN GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY II Chronicles 20:6 Matthew 10:29-31</p>
<p>PRIDE EXAMPLES: controlling, boasting, belittling, taking credit, selfishness vanity LIE: I am where I am because of all that I have done.</p>	<p>HUMILITY Matthew 16:24</p>

FORGIVENESS:

II Corinthians 5:17-19 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

SURRENDER:

Matthew 16:24-25 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

CONTENTMENT:

Matthew 6:25-26 25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

HOPE:

Psalms 34:17-18 17 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

GRATEFULNESS:

I Chronicles 16:34 34 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

Matthew 7:9-11 9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

PURITY:

Galatians 5:13-16, 19-21 13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! 16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Genesis 2:22-25 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

23 And Adam said:

"This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be[d] joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

GOD'S WORD:

John 1:1-5 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 14:6-7 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. 7 “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”

SECURITY IN CHRIST:

Ephesians 2:10 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Romans 8:38-39 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ACCEPTANCE:

Psalms 139:14 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

John 3:16 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

TRUTHFULNESS:

John 8:32 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Psalms 23:1 23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

TRUST IN GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY:

II Chronicles 20:6 6 and said: “O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?

Matthew 10:29-31 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

HUMILITY:

Matthew 16:24 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

GALATIANS 6 - WE ARE PEOPLE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS

REVIEW THE SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Galatians 6:14. May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

READ THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE

(Have people read aloud who are comfortable to do so.)

1. What is happening in this passage? Audience? Struggles? Encouragements?
2. What is ALWAYS true about God from this passage?
3. How does this passage relate to you right now? (Take note of how your group is connecting God's Word to what they are experiencing in their lives right now.)
4. What question(s) from your workbook challenged and/or impacted you the most this week?
(All the questions from the week's study are on the following page.)

RHYTHMS SUGGESTION

Reflect on your story. Help your group prepare to share their story by understanding this is a critical part of their faith journey. Each story should have a beginning (before they knew Jesus), a middle (between 'then and 'now') and an end (where do they want to serve, or who will they reach out to, invite to church, pray for, help, etc.) A discussion question to ask each person might be 'When exactly did you really grasp God's grace (that salvation is through Christ alone and not their own doing)? The answer to this will be part of their story.

Celebration. Throw an online party! Schedule something that is simple and fun. Put it on the calendar before the end of the final session.

Fun suggestions: everyone wears a fun hat, play a Kahoot game, bring your favorite coffee mug, etc.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

DAY 1

1. How has bearing the burdens of others led to a greater pride in you?
2. How has bearing the burdens of others led to a greater humility in you?

DAY 2

1. What character of Christ has God been developing in you? How has it been a struggle?
2. What was a character quality that you practiced, but wasn't noticeable until you practiced it over time, and it became part of who you are?

DAY 3

1. How do you see the world being resistant to the gospel?
2. What part of the gospel offends you? Or puts you on the defensive? Why?

DAY 4

1. In what ways do you find your identity in the cross? What about your life with Christ began on the inside (in your heart and mind) and then moved to the outside (in words or actions)?
2. What in your life needs to decrease so that Christ can increase?

DAY 5

1. If you had to sum up the message of the entire letter of Galatians in just a few words, what would they be?
2. What is a Galatian?



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