

SCHEDULE

DISCUSSION GROUPS

9:15 - 9:50 / 6:30 - 7:05

MOVE TO WORSHIP CENTER

9:50 - 9:55 / 7:05 - 7:10

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

9:55 - 10:00 / 7:10 - 7:15

MESSAGE

10:00 - 10:45 / 7:15 - 8:00

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1. INTRODUCTIONS:

- a. Please share your name with the group.
- b. How do you define freedom?
- c. Please share one thing that intrigues you about the title of this study.

2. SCHEDULE:

- a. Please look over the schedule in the front of your notebook. Are there any questions about the schedule?
- b. If at all possible, please come a few minutes early so that you can enjoy the time in your group to the fullest extent.
- c. We'd like to honor your time, so we'll try to stick as closely to the schedule as possible. In order to help with that, Jonna (or someone) will text your leader with a 5-minute warning before you need to close in prayer.

3. DAILY INDIVIDUAL STUDY TIME:

- a. Please start each study time with prayer in order to invite the Lord to be part of your study time. He wants to meet with you and teach you from His word.
- b. We will have 5 days of individual study time. We recommend that you spend time in study each day rather than trying to get it in all at once so that you can get the most out of your study time. (Even if you don't get it all finished, you're still totally welcome here. Please come anyway.)
- c. Study questions with asterisks (*) will be the discussion questions for the coming week.

4. PREPARE YOUR HEART:

- a. The world looks at freedom differently than scripture does. What do you think some of those differences are?
- b. 2 Corinthians 3:17 says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." What do you think that means?
- c. Please take a look at the titles for each week. What is one title that intrigues you, and why?
- d. As you look forward to this study over the next six weeks, what is one thing that you hope to grow in understanding?

5. PLEASE CLOSE THIS TIME IN PRAYER.

- a. Please ask the Lord to prepare your heart for the message you're about to hear.
- b. Please ask the Lord to help you open your heart and mind to what He wants to teach you over the next several weeks.



2. _____: What is the gospel? (1:1-5)

3. _____: Why only one gospel? (1:6-12)

4. _____: How can we know the gospel is at work? (1:13-2:14)

Week 1 HOMEWORK

FREEDOM CALL: FREE TO STAND ON THE GOSPEL
GALATIANS 1:1-2:14



DAY ONE

PRAY: Begin by asking the Lord to open your eyes to His freedom and truth as you study today.

MEMORIZE: This week we will be memorizing Galatians 1:4-5. Write the verses on a notecard or on the lines below and slowly and carefully read through it. From these verses, what do you learn about the gospel that you are thankful for?

STUDY: Today we will begin our study by taking a bird's eye view of the passage. Read Galatians 1:1-2:14.

1. Summarize each section of the passage with a short phrase or sentence.

- a. Galatians 1:1-5:

- b. Galatians 1:6-12:

- c. Galatians 1:13-24:

- d. Galatians 2:1-14:

2. To whom is Paul writing this letter and why is he writing?

3. What are some words or ideas that are repeated in this passage? Why do you think they are important?

4. *How would you describe Paul's tone in this letter and why do you think he writes this way?

5. *Are there any questions you have as you read through this passage? Record them on the lines.

Close your study time in prayer, asking the Lord to impact your heart with His truth as you study Galatians 1:1-2:14 this week.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Confess to the Lord your need for His help to apply the truth we will look at today.

MEMORIZE: Read through Galatians 1:4-5. Focus on the first part of the verse, “who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age.” Repeat this phrase a few times and meditate on it. In what ways are you thankful for how Jesus Christ has delivered you from this present evil age?

STUDY: As Galatians opens, we see Paul countering a group of infiltrators who are questioning his authority and message. As you study today, be thinking about how Paul’s response to this group is relevant to your own life. Begin by reading Galatians 1:1-5.

1. Think about the authority that Paul has as an apostle and church leader. (vs 1-2)

a. Where does Paul’s authority not come from?

b. Where does Paul’s authority come from?

c. What is one way that Paul’s authority is verified?

d. Why are all these truths significant to Paul’s argument?

2. Think about the gospel message that Paul is preaching. (vs 3-5)

a. Where does the provision of salvation come from?

b. What is the purpose of salvation according to this passage?

c. How was the plan of salvation initiated and completed?

d. What is the ultimate goal of the gospel message and its power?

3. *What is one truth about the gospel that is significant to your life right now?

Close in prayer, thanking the Lord for the authority of the gospel message and its relevance to your life and all that you face today.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Begin by asking the Lord to reveal to you the authority and authenticity of the gospel. Confess to Him your need for His salvation and rescue.

MEMORIZE: Continue memorizing our verses this week, Galatians 1:4-5. Focus on the middle section, “according to the will of our God and Father.” Repeat this phrase a few times and meditate on it. How are you thankful for God’s will in your own life?

STUDY: Paul was concerned that the Galatians were falling for a distortion or perversion of the gospel. The word “distort” in the Greek means to flip or reverse. The Galatian believers were reversing the order of the gospel and were trying to rely on their own works to earn part of their salvation. This distortion was very serious because, as Tim Keller says, “To lose the gospel at all is to lose it entirely.” Begin by reading our passage today, Galatians 1:6-12, and then answer the questions.

1. *How would you summarize the gospel of Jesus Christ? (Think about Galatians 1:3-5)

2. How were the Jewish infiltrators distorting the gospel?

3. *What are some ways people in our culture distort the gospel message?

4. What do we learn about the gospel in verses 8-12?

5. Why are these truths significant?

Close in prayer today by taking a few moments to think through the following questions and use them to respond to the Lord. Is the Gospel of Jesus Christ the authoritative, unchanging foundation of my life, and do my decisions and actions flow out of gospel truth? Is there any way in which I am buying into a distortion of the gospel message? Do the choices in my daily life demonstrate that I am a servant of Christ or a servant of what others think?

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Ask the Lord to continue to soften your heart with His truth and grace as you study today.

MEMORIZE: Continue memorizing Galatians 1:4-5. Focus on the last section of the verse, “to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” Repeat this phrase a few times and meditate on it. What steps can you take today to live for the glory of God?

STUDY: Paul has been arguing the authority and authenticity of the gospel message he is preaching, and now he is going to use his own personal testimony to continue asserting his case. Begin by reading Galatians 1:13-24 and then answer the study questions.

1. Look at verses 13-14. What characterized Paul’s life before Christ?

2. Look at verses 15-17. Think about Paul’s description of his conversion.

a. What part did God play?

b. What part did Paul play?

c. Why are these things significant?

3. Look at verses 18-24. How do these verses continue to demonstrate the authority and authenticity of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

4. Before Paul came to Christ, he was zealously religious. His works and zeal were the basis of his sense of approval and identity. When Jesus Christ invaded his life, this totally changed!

a. Do you have a works mentality or even subtle tendencies in this direction?

b. *Do you follow a list of do's and don'ts that if kept, give you a sense of meriting God's favor and blessing?

c. *How does the gospel free us from this works-based mentality?

Close in prayer. Confess to the Lord any way in which you have based your identity and security on your own works rather than on the free gift of grace that you have in Christ, and ask Him to help you to walk in the freedom of the gospel.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Begin by asking the Lord to show you how you can practically apply His word to your life today as you study.

MEMORIZE: Thank the Lord for the truths that we have seen and meditated on as we have memorized Galatians 1:4-5 this week. Try to write the verses from memory on the lines below.

STUDY: Paul wanted the Galatians to know that the gospel message he preached wasn't made up and it didn't come from a person or from a tradition, but that it came directly from God. The gospel message he preached was also validated by the other apostles, and Paul makes this point clear in our passage today. Begin by reading Galatians 2:1-14.

1. Why did Paul go to Jerusalem a second time according to the beginning of Galatians 2?

2. *How does Paul describe the false brothers; what is his response to them, and why is his response significant?

3. What is the response of the apostles in Jerusalem to Paul and why was their response important?

4. *What was Paul communicating to the Galatians by sharing the story of his interactions with Peter in verses 11-14?

5. What is one application you can make for your own life from this passage?

Close in prayer, thanking the Lord for any specific insights you have had this week and asking Him to continue to help you walk in the fullness of gospel freedom.

Week 2

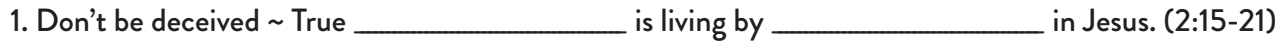
DISCUSSION GROUP QUESTIONS

FREEDOM CALL: FREE TO STAND ON THE GOSPEL
GALATIANS 1:1-2:14



1. *What impacted you from last week's message?
2. *How would you describe Paul's tone in this letter and why do you think he writes this way?
3. *Are there any questions you have as you read through this passage? Record them on the lines.
4. *What is one truth about the gospel that is significant to your life right now?
5. *How would you summarize the gospel of Jesus Christ? (Think about Galatians 1:3-5)
6. *What are some ways people in our culture distort the gospel message?
7. *Do you follow a list of do's and don'ts that if kept, give you a sense of meriting God's favor and blessing?
8. *How does the gospel free us from this works-based mentality?
9. *How does Paul describe the false brothers; what is his response to them, and why is his response significant?
10. *What was Paul communicating to the Galatians by sharing the story of his interactions with Peter in verses 11-14?

FREEDOM CALL: FREE TO LIVE BY FAITH
GALATIANS 2:15-3:14



2. Live by _____...the _____ has always come through faith. (3:1-9)

3. Live by faith...Jesus _____ us from the curse by _____ a curse in our place. (3:10-14)

Week 2

HOMEWORK

FREEDOM CALL: FREE TO LIVE BY FAITH
GALATIANS 2:15-3:14



DAY ONE

PRAY: As you open this time in prayer, please look over the titles of each week's lesson, and tell the Lord any question you have about them or anything you're excited to learn about. Please ask Him to open your heart to receive what He wants to teach you.

MEMORIZE: This week we will memorize Galatians 2:20. "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me." Please read the passage out loud several times emphasizing different words when you read. Why do you think this is a good verse to have hidden in your heart?

STUDY: Galatians 2:15-21. Paul had just confronted Peter and the other Jewish believers who were leaving out the Gentile believers, refusing to eat with them. Here, he reminds the Galatian believers that his Jewish heritage is not what justifies him before Christ. Even though the law was given to the Jews, the law is not what saves them. Today we'll seek to understand the importance of faith. Before we start, take a few moments to identify any "rules" or "laws" that you place on yourself (ex. in your family, in your job, in your friendships, in how you take care of yourself, etc.) and how living by them might impact your faith in Jesus. Please read Galatians 2:15-21 and answer the following questions.

1. The word "justified" is a legal term meaning that a person is ruled "not guilty" in a court of law. Why do you think obedience to the law cannot justify someone? And why can faith in Christ justify them?

2. In verses 17-18, Paul is speaking about "rebuilding" the law and how that causes a person to be a transgressor. Why would living by the law equal being a transgressor?

3. *From verse 19, what is the purpose of dying to the law? Think about your rules that you make for yourself, rules that aren't commands God has placed on you. How does living for those rules affect your view of God and your obedience to Him?

4. *Please compare verse 20 with Romans 6:6-7, Colossians 3:3, and 2 Corinthians 5:17. Our old selves lived by the law and our new selves live by faith. How is living by faith a call to freedom?
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5. Please look back through this passage and write down any reasons Jesus deserves for us to place faith in Him. How does living by our own rules compare?
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As you close this time in prayer, please tell the Lord what rules you've placed over His. Tell Him one thing you'll take from this passage to apply to your life.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Please consider Colossians 1:23, which calls us to "continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard" as you open this time in prayer.

MEMORIZE: Please unscramble the phrases of Galatians 2:20 by placing the correct number next to each phrase.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. It is no longer | _____ |
| 2. and gave Himself for me | _____ |
| 3. with Christ | _____ |
| 4. who loved me | _____ |
| 5. I who live but Christ | _____ |
| 6. And the life I now live in the flesh | _____ |
| 7. I have been crucified | _____ |
| 8. I live by faith in the Son of God | _____ |
| 9. who lives in me | _____ |

STUDY: Galatians 3:1-6. In this letter to the Galatians, you will see that Paul links obedience to the law with our own flesh. The flesh in this context is "any human action or achievement without dependence upon the Holy Spirit and without glorying in Christ Jesus." (Piper) How is obedience to rules the working of our flesh? If you think about it, when we try to live by a set of rules, we are muscling it ourselves and not depending on the Lord for our righteousness. When we do that, we miss out on the relationship God wants to have with us. Today, we'll see more clearly why this is a problem. As you study this passage, please consider any rules that you find yourself trying to live by in order to measure up or be good enough. Please read Galatians 3:1-6 and answer the following questions.

1. The Galatians were being “bewitched” by people who said they had to live under the law along with receiving Jesus as Savior for their salvation. Why does that make them foolish (ignorant), and why is Jesus’ crucifixion the proof that they were being foolish? Please see Galatians 2:21 for extra help.

2. *Consider how we talk about salvation according to the ABC’s. Admit you have not measured up to God’s glory and need Him to save you. Believe that Jesus died and rose again. Confess Jesus as Lord of your life, in charge. Ephesians 1:14 says that when we do that, we are “sealed with the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of our inheritance (our salvation).” Why is trying to be made perfectly righteous by our flesh never going to work, even as a Christian?

3. Verse 4 can also be translated, “Did you experience so much in vain (for no purpose)?” Using verses 2-3, what would they have experienced in vain? Why would it have been in vain?

4. *Since God supplies the Holy Spirit and works miracles among us by hearing with faith, why are we so tempted to go back to works of the law? What other ways are we tempted to live rather than by hearing with faith?

5. What evidence do you find about God in this passage for choosing to believe Him?

Please close this time in prayer and tell the Lord one thing about the passage that inspires your worship.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Please ask the Lord to use today’s passage to show you something about Him that you haven’t seen before, or to show you something about yourself that you didn’t realize.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the missing words to complete Galatians 2:20.

I have been _____ with Christ. It is no longer I who _____ but _____ who lives in me. And the life I now _____ in the _____ I live by _____ in the Son of God who _____ me and _____ Himself for me.

STUDY: Galatians 3:5-9. Jewish people were the physical offspring of Abraham. They were very proud of their heritage, and even though some were turning to Jesus as their Savior, many of them were having a hard time letting go of their tie to Abraham as the chosen people of God. They were so tied to their heritage that they started telling Gentile believers they needed to be circumcised if they really wanted to be blessed by God. In today's passage, Paul blows up the thinking of the Jews that had infiltrated the church at Galatia. There was a struggle because in order to move on to the new, they had to let go of the old. As you consider today's passage, please consider any ties to the old way of doing things you need to let go of in order to live in the freedom you have in Christ. Please read Galatians 3:5-9 and answer the following.

1. Please read Genesis 15:1-6 to understand the context of Galatians 3:5-6. How was this evidence of God "supplying" the Spirit and working miracles for Abraham, rather than having Abraham earn anything through his works?

2. The Jewish people were very proud to be considered offspring of Abraham. Please read Genesis 17:1-11 and explain why circumcision was so important for the Jews (see especially verse 11).

3. *Imagine you were Jewish. How did verse 7 go completely against your view of the importance of circumcision? What other things do we tend to place as being more important than faith in our walk with God?

4. How many times is the word "faith" repeated in verses 5-9? What point do you think Paul was trying to make by repeating it so many times?

5. *Please consider verse 8. The Jews who called themselves "the circumcision" never considered that Gentiles, who they called "the uncircumcision", would be sons of Abraham. Knowing this, what insight do you gain about the heart of God and His plan for your salvation?

As you close this time in prayer, please tell the Lord something you learned from this passage today.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer and ask the Lord to show you something about what faith is as well as something about the faith that you have.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the missing words to complete Galatians 2:20.

I _____ been _____ with _____. It is no _____ I who _____ but
_____ who _____ in me. And the _____ I now _____ in the _____ I live by
_____ in the _____ of _____ who _____ me and _____ for _____.

STUDY: Galatians 3:10-14. The Jewish believers had a very hard time shifting from living under the law to living by faith. In reality, the quotes you'll see in this passage are scriptures written in the Old Testament when people were under the law, including "The righteous shall live by faith", quoted in Habakkuk 2:4. We are no different from the Jews. Our default is to try to live by works of the law rather than by faith. Today we'll seek to find answers for why we need to choose faith over works. Please read Galatians 3:10-14 and answer the following.

1. Please use verse 11 to explain the purpose for which people are relying on works of the law.

2. Why do you think it's impossible to live both by obedience to the law and by faith?

3. *There are two examples of those who are cursed, both of which are written in the law from the Old Testament. What are they? Who receives the curses? How does that impact your view of God's authority and His mercy?

a. Example 1

i. Received by whom?

b. Example 2

i. Received by whom?

c. Display of God's authority

d. Display of God's mercy

4. Please compare verses 13-14 with 2 Corinthians 5:21. For what purpose did Jesus become a curse?

5. *Compare what this passage says about being cursed and blessed with Jeremiah 17:5-8:

a. How is living by works of the law trusting in man and making flesh its strength? What are the evidences of being cursed?

b. How is living by faith trusting in the Lord and putting your confidence in the Lord? What are the evidences of being blessed?

6. Please use at least two of the following passages to explain why receiving the promised Spirit through faith is a blessing.

a. John 14:26

b. Ephesians 1:13-14

c. Romans 8:26-27

d. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

As you close this time in prayer, please tell the Lord any area of your life where you've put rules as a higher priority than your faith.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Please invite the Lord to reveal anything He wants to show you from the passage today.

MEMORIZE: Please write down Galatians 2:20 from memory.

How does knowing this verse help you in your understanding of God and your walk with Him?

STUDY: Galatians 2:15-3:14. In His book, “The Transforming Power of the Gospel”, Jerry Bridges says that if we’re not intentional about our faith, our natural default will always be to emphasize our works over our faith in Christ. Today we’ll look at the whole of this week’s scripture to gain a fuller understanding of works versus faith. Let’s look to see why the Lord is calling us FROM trying to be justified by our works and calling us TO the freedom of living by faith in Christ. Please read Galatians 2:15-3:14 and answer the following.

1. What do the following verses tell you about works of the law?

a. Galatians 2:16

b. Galatians 2:19

c. Galatians 2:21

d. Galatians 3:2

e. Galatians 3:3

f. Galatians 3:10

g. Galatians 3:11

h. Galatians 3:12

2. *From what you read, please give a summary statement about works of the law.

3. What do the following verses tell you about faith?

a. Galatians 2:16

b. Galatians 2:20

c. Galatians 3:2

d. Galatians 3:5

e. Galatians 3:6

f. Galatians 3:7

g. Galatians 3:8

h. Galatians 3:9

i. Galatians 3:11

j. Galatians 3:12

k. Galatians 3:14

4. *From what you read, please give a summary statement about faith.

5. *Please consider a difficult situation in your life. How would you handle that situation if you were...

a. Trying to get through it by works?

i. How would that impact your emotions?

ii. How would that impact your relationship with the Lord?

b. Trying to get through it by faith?

i. How would that impact your emotions?

ii. How would that impact your relationship with the Lord?

Please close this time in prayer and tell Him one thing you will take from this week's passage to apply to your life.



1. *What impacted you from last week's message?
2. *From verse 19, what is the purpose of dying to the law? Think about your rules that you make for yourself, rules that aren't commands God has placed on you. How does living for those rules affect your view of God and your obedience to Him?
3. *Please compare verse 20 with Romans 6:6-7, Colossians 3:3, and 2 Corinthians 5:17. Our old selves lived by the law and our new selves live by faith. How is living by faith a call to freedom?
4. *Consider how we talk about salvation according to the ABC's. Admit you have not measured up to God's glory and need Him to save you. Believe that Jesus died and rose again. Confess Jesus as Lord of your life, in charge. Ephesians 1:14 says that when we do that, we are "sealed with the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of our inheritance (our salvation)." Why is trying to be made perfectly righteous by our flesh never going to work, even as a Christian?
5. *Since God supplies the Holy Spirit and works miracles among us by hearing with faith, why are we so tempted to go back to works of the law? What other ways are we tempted to live rather than by hearing with faith?
6. *Imagine you were Jewish. How did verse 7 go completely against your view of the importance of circumcision? What other things do we tend to place as being more important than faith in our walk with God?
7. *Please consider verse 8. The Jews who called themselves "the circumcision" never considered that Gentiles, who they called "the uncircumcision", would be sons of Abraham. Knowing this, what insight do you gain about the heart of God and His plan for your salvation?

8. *There are two examples of those who are cursed, both of which are written in the law from the Old Testament. What are they? Who receives the curses? How does that impact your view of God's authority and His mercy?
 - a. Example 1
 - i. Received by whom?
 - b. Example 2
 - i. Received by whom?
 - c. Display of God's authority
 - d. Display of God's mercy
9. *Compare what this passage says about being cursed and blessed with Jeremiah 17:5-8:
 - a. How is living by works of the law trusting in man and making flesh its strength? What are the evidences of being cursed?
 - b. How is living by faith trusting in the Lord and putting your confidence in the Lord? What are the evidences of being blessed?
10. *From what you read, please give a summary statement about works of the law.
11. *From what you read, please give a summary statement about faith.
12. *Please consider a difficult situation in your life. How would you handle that situation if you were...
 - a. Trying to get through it by works?
 - i. How would that impact your emotions?
 - ii. How would that impact your relationship with the Lord?
 - b. Trying to get through it by faith?
 - i. How would that impact your emotions?
 - ii. How would that impact your relationship with the Lord?

FREEDOM CALL: FREE TO LIVE AS AN HEIR OF GOD
GALATIANS 3:15-4:20



2. Through faith I understand that freedom is not found in any _____, but in the fact that I am an _____ of God. (3:26-4:7)

Week 3

HOMEWORK

FREEDOM CALL: FREE TO LIVE AS AN HEIR OF GOD
GALATIANS 3:15-4:20



DAY ONE

PRAY: Ask the Lord to guide your study this week as you learn what it means to be an Heir of God.

MEMORIZE: This week we will memorize Galatians 4:6-7. Write these verses on the lines below or on a notecard to use for reference and meditation throughout this week. As you read through these verses, what do you learn about being an heir of God?

STUDY: This week our study will focus on the freedom we have as Heirs of God. We will think about topics that are foundational to our understanding of what it means to be a Christian. What is the purpose of the Law for us today? How do human or worldly ideas limit our freedom? What is the significance of the fact that we are adopted by God? If we want to experience freedom in Christ, we must grasp the magnitude of what it means to be God's child. Scottish theologian Sinclair Ferguson says it this way, "The notion that we are children of God, His own sons and daughters. . . is the mainspring of Christian living . . . Our sonship to God is the apex of creation and the goal of redemption." Please read Galatians 3:15-4:20

1. *What do you learn about God from this passage?

2. Why do you think this was important for the first people who read it?

3. What would it say about God's character if His promises were changed after the law was given?

4. What lessons can you learn from this passage?

Spend a few moments praising the Lord for what you have learned about His character in this passage.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Ask the Lord to help you recognize ways that you believe in “laws” more than trusting His promises.

MEMORIZE: Galatians 4:6-7. Unscramble the phrases below to write out the verse.

crying, “Abba, Father!” then an heir through God. And because you are sons, but a son, God has
sent the Spirit So you are no longer a slave and if a son, of His Son into our hearts

STUDY: Paul has established the fact that no one is saved by the law, but through faith alone (3:11). Based upon this, we might then ask, “What was the purpose of the law and does the law have value in our lives as Christians today?” In the verses we’ll study today, Paul refers back to Genesis 15 where God confirmed His covenant with Abraham in a one-sided process where He alone would be responsible for bringing all of His promises and blessings to fulfillment. In Genesis 15:6 we read that Abraham believed the Lord and he counted it to him as righteousness. Please read Galatians 3:15-23.

1. Based upon this passage, why does the law not change God’s promises to Abraham?

2. How are laws different from promises?

3. From verses 19-23, how would you describe the purposes of the law?

4. *Why are we no longer held captive by the law?

5. *What are some “laws” that hold you captive today? Why do you tend to look to those rules/standards/ideas to help you become (or feel) righteous?

6. 2 Corinthians 1:20 tells us that all of the promises of God find their yes in Him (Christ). How does this truth impact your worship today?

Close your study by sharing with the Lord the ways that you are tempted to be righteous by keeping a “law” rather than by living as His child - justified by faith.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Begin your study by asking the Lord to help you better understand the value of the Law (His word) in your life today.

MEMORIZE: Read or say Galatians 4:6-7 out loud several times. Fill in the blanks to complete the verse:
And because _____, God has sent the Spirit of _____
into our hearts, crying, _____. So you are no _____, but
a son, and _____, then an _____.

STUDY: In these verses we learn that the law was like a guardian - guiding and protecting the people of Israel until Christ came. Now that Christ has brought redemption, we are grown-up children of God. The guardian is removed and we live by faith in Christ. So, does this mean we are free from obedience to the law? And if not, how should we view the role of the law (God’s word) in our lives today? Please read Galatians 3:24-29.

1. Some translations use the word “tutor” rather than guardian. How is the word of God like a guardian? How is it like a tutor?

2. *How would you describe the relationship between a tutor (or beloved teacher) and their former students? Is this how you feel about the word? If not, how would you describe your relationship with the word of God?

3. Read Psalm 19:7-11

a. How does this writer feel about the law?

b. List some of the ways that the law can continue to teach and protect you.

- c. Verse 11 says that there is great reward in keeping the law. Thinking of your own heart, why do you obey the law? Why should you obey the law?

4. *From Galatians 3:27-29, what does it mean to put on Christ?

5. *How could the law (or the Word) help you put on Christ and live as an heir of God?

Using the words of Psalm 19:7-11, thank the Lord for His law. Ask Him to help you understand how He wants to use these words in your heart today.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Begin your study time today by praising the Lord that in Christ, you are no longer a slave, but an heir.

MEMORIZE: Review Galatians 4:6-7. Personalize this verse to your life by replacing the words you and our with I and my. (And because I am a son, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into my heart. . .)

STUDY: Today we'll explore what it means to be a son and heir of God. Before Christ came into our lives, we lived in bondage to worldly principles. But in Christ we are redeemed and receive the "adoption of sons." In the ancient Roman world, the adoption of sons or the "sonship" was a legal process where a wealthy man who had no heir would adopt one of his slaves to become his heir. At the moment of adoption this former slave would receive all of the legal and financial advantages as if he were a natural-born son of his former master. What an amazing gift we have in Christ - the freedom to be an heir of God and call Him our Abba! Please read Galatians 4:1-7.

1. What do you think Paul means in these verses when he says that the child is no different from a slave?

2. Why did God send his Son according to these verses? What does this have to do with slavery and sonship?

3. Based upon these verses, what are your rights and privileges as a son?

4. *Read Romans 8:14-17.

a. What is the role of the Spirit of God in the sons of God?

b. What does it mean to you that you are a “fellow heir with Christ?”

c. How do you think an heir of God will live in this world?

5. Do you live like a slave who is afraid of God or like a child confident in His love? When are you tempted to live like a slave rather than an heir of God?

As you close your time in prayer, confess to the Lord the ways that you are tempted to fall back into the bondage of the ways and thought processes of the world. Thank Him for His Spirit in your life and the privilege of calling Him Abba!

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Ask God to give you a greater understanding of true Gospel-focused ministry.

MEMORIZE: Review Galatians 4:6-7 using the letters below to help you remember. Each letter is the first letter of the words of the verse.

A B Y A S, G H S T S O H S I O H, C, A F! S Y A N L A S, B A S, A I A S, T A H T G.

STUDY: In these verses, Paul challenges the Galatian people to live as heirs of God rather than turning back to the bondage that comes from following human or worldly principles. He tells them to compare the ministry that he had when he was with them to the purposes of the Judaizers who are now persuading them with a distorted gospel. Please read Galatians 4:8-20.

1. In verses 8-10, what is Paul warning them against? How would you rephrase this warning to be relevant to your world and your experiences?

2. What are some things that could be called “elementary principles of the world” in your life and experiences today?

3. How is your life impacted by the fact that you know God and He knows you? In what ways does this (or should this) change your behavior?

4. *Paul compares his ministry to the Galatians with that of the Judaizers in verses 12-20.

a. Paul’s ministry was characterized by:

b. The Judaizer’s ministry was characterized by:

c. Paul’s ministry goal:

d. The Judaizer’s ministry goal:

5. *Based upon what you have studied today, what would it look like to have a gospel-focused ministry toward the people that God brings into your life?

Close in prayer by thanking the Lord for what He has taught you this week. Be specific as you pray about the ways you have been challenged.



1. *What impacted you from last week's message?
2. *What do you learn about God from this passage?
3. *Why are we no longer held captive by the law?
4. *What are some "laws" that hold you captive today? Why do you tend to look to those rules/standards/ideas to help you become (or feel) righteous?
5. *How would you describe the relationship between a tutor (or beloved teacher) and their former students? Is this how you feel about the word? If not, how would you describe your relationship with the word of God?
6. *From Galatians 3:27-29, what does it mean to put on Christ?
7. *How could the law (or the Word) help you put on Christ and live as an heir of God?
8. *Read Romans 8:14-17.
 - a. What is the role of the Spirit of God in the sons of God?
 - b. What does it mean to you that you are a "fellow heir with Christ?"
 - c. How do you think an heir of God will live in this world?
9. *Paul compares his ministry to the Galatians with that of the Judaizers in verses 12-20.
 - a. Paul's ministry was characterized by:
 - b. The Judaizer's ministry was characterized by:
 - c. Paul's ministry goal:
 - d. The Judaizer's ministry goal:
10. *Based upon what you have studied today, what would it look like to have a gospel-focused ministry toward the people that God brings into your life?

LISTENING GUIDE

Week 4

HOMEWORK

FREEDOM CALL: FREE TO LIVE AS CHILDREN OF PROMISE
GALATIANS 4:21-5:12



DAY ONE

PRAY: Ask the Lord to soften your heart to His truth as you study today.

MEMORIZE: This week we will be memorizing Galatians 5:1. Write the verse on a notecard or on the lines below and slowly and carefully read through it. From this verse, what do you learn about the freedom you have in Christ that you are thankful for?

STUDY: We will begin our study of this week's passage by getting a general overview. Read our passage for the week, Galatians 4:21-5:12, and answer the questions.

1. Summarize each section of the passage with a short phrase or sentence.

a. Galatians 4:21-26:

b. Galatians 4:26-31:

c. Galatians 5:1-6:

d. Galatians 5:7-12:

2. What are some words or ideas that are repeated in this passage? Why do you think they are important?

3. *What do you learn about God's character from this passage?

4. What do you learn about human nature from this passage?

5. *Are there any questions you have as you read through this passage? Record them on the lines.

Close in prayer, thanking the Lord for His grace and asking Him to help you to continue to grow in understanding the freedom He has given you as you study this week.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Ask the Lord to use His truth to penetrate your heart and mind as you study today.

MEMORIZE: Fill in the blanks to complete our verse for the week.

For _____ Christ has _____ us free; stand _____ therefore, and do not _____ again to a _____ of slavery. Galatians 5: _____

STUDY: In our passage this week, Paul makes 3 “appeals” to the Galatian believers. Paul uses theological truths to argue that believers are justified by faith alone. Today and tomorrow, we will look at Galatians 4:21-31, where Paul appeals to the Galatians by showing them that freedom is not found in the law. Begin by reading the passage.

1. What does it look like to be under the law (vs 21)?

2. *Why would we be tempted to live according to law instead of grace?

3. Paul uses an Old Testament story as an analogy to make an important point in this passage. These are real people and events that Paul draws lessons from for the Galatians. Use the passages listed to describe the people Paul is referring to. Read Genesis 16:1-4, Genesis 17:1-8, and Genesis 17:15-21, and record what you learn about each person.

a. Abraham: _____

b. Sarah: _____

c. Hagar: _____

d. Ishmael: _____

e. Isaac: _____

4. *What point is Paul making in verse 23, when he says that the son of the slave woman was born according to flesh while the son of the free woman was born according to promise? How does this passage pertain to Paul's argument that we are justified by faith and not by the law?

Close in prayer, thanking the Lord for a specific truth from the passage today that is significant to the freedom that Christ has given you.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Begin by asking the Lord to give you clear understanding as you study His Word today.

MEMORIZE: Review your memory verse. Say the verse out loud a few times, emphasizing different words each time. Thank the Lord that His yoke is easy and His burden light.

STUDY: We will continue to look at Galatians 4:21-31 today and Paul's appeal to the Galatians to be justified by faith alone. Begin by reading the passage.

1. Use the chart to compare the 2 covenants that Paul is analyzing in these verses, represented by Hagar and Sarah. Record all you learn about each.

HAGAR (THE LAW)

SARAH (THE PROMISE)

2. *What does Paul's analogy tell us about the freedom that we have as believers?
-
-

3. Paul quotes Isaiah 54:1 in verse 27. What application can you make to the fruitfulness of your own life from this verse?
-
-

4. In verse 30 Paul quotes another Old Testament scripture, Genesis 21:10. What truths do you see in this verse that are important to your own life?

5. *Using all you have learned from these verses, summarize what it means to be a “child of the free woman” (vs 31).

Close in prayer, thanking the Lord for one truth that has been significant to you as you have studied today.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Ask the Lord to use today’s study to root your heart and mind in His truth.

MEMORIZE: Try to recall Galatians 5:1 from memory. Say our verse out loud a few times.

STUDY: For the past few days, we have looked at Paul’s theological appeal to the Galatian believers and his argument that there is no freedom found in the law. Today we will look at another appeal that Paul makes to the Galatians, the appeal to stand fast in the liberty of Christ. Begin by reading Galatians 5:1-6.

1. Look at verse 1.

a. What 2 commands does Paul list and what do they mean?

b. *The Galatian believers were being tempted to be circumcised in order to earn their salvation. In what ways do believers in our culture try to add to Christ to “earn” salvation and favor from God?

2. Look at verses 2-4.

a. What is the obligation of the man being circumcised, i.e., the one who is trying to add to what Christ has done for him, according to verse 3?

b. *What is the result of trying to earn our justification according to verse 4?

3. *Look at verses 5-6. What evidence demonstrates that a person is living by faith and not by their own works?

Close in prayer, taking a few minutes to sit quietly before the Lord. Ask the Lord to show you any ways in which you have lost sight of God's grace and goodness and any ways in which you are trying to add to your salvation with your own works. Confess any sin that comes to mind.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Begin with prayer, asking the Lord to give you eyes to see your own heart and ears to hear His voice so that you can obey Him today.

MEMORIZE: Write our memory verse for the week on the lines below. What truth from this verse encourages you today?

STUDY: Today we will look at Paul's last appeal to the Galatians. He has shown them that justification and freedom do not come from the law, but from Christ alone. In Galatians 5:7-12, Paul makes another appeal to the Galatians to continue running the race and stay the course of obedience to the Lord. Begin by reading the passage, Galatians 5:7-12.

1. What do you think Paul means when he says the Galatians were "running well" in verse 7?

2. *What was veering the Galatians off course? What other things might tempt believers to veer off course?

3. According to verses 8-10, where do these diversions come from and why are they so detrimental?

4. In verse 11 Paul talks about the fact that the cross is offensive, or scandalous, to his opponents. Why was the cross so offensive to the Judaizers? Why is it so offensive to people in our day and culture?

5. *Where are you tempted to let a little legalism or self-righteousness creep into your own thinking? According to Paul, why would it be important to weed out this kind of thinking?

Close in prayer. Confess any way that you have veered off course from running the gospel race of dependent grace on the Lord. Thank the Lord for His grace which is continually at work in your life.



1. *What impacted you from last week's message?
2. *What do you learn about God's character from this passage?
3. *Are there any questions you have as you read through this passage? Record them on the lines.
4. *Why would we be tempted to live according to law instead of grace?
5. *What point is Paul making in verse 23, when he says that the son of the slave woman was born according to flesh while the son of the free woman was born according to promise? How does this passage pertain to Paul's argument that we are justified by faith and not by the law?
6. *What does Paul's analogy tell us about the freedom that we have as believers?
7. *Using all you have learned from these verses, summarize what it means to be a "child of the free woman" (vs 31).
8. *The Galatian believers were being tempted to be circumcised in order to earn their salvation. In what ways do believers in our culture try to add to Christ to "earn" salvation and favor from God?
9. *What is the result of trying to earn our justification according to verse 4?
10. *Look at verses 5-6. What evidence demonstrates that a person is living by faith and not by their own works?
11. *What was veering the Galatians off course? What other things might tempt believers to veer off course?
12. *Where are you tempted to let a little legalism or self-righteousness creep into your own thinking? According to Paul, why would it be important to weed out this kind of thinking?



1. True _____ is found in _____ by the Spirit. (5:13-18)

2. Live by the _____ and let Him _____ His fruit in you...You will not regret it. (5:19-26)

3. _____ to the Spirit and experience the freedom of _____ others. (6:1-10)

Week 5

HOMEWORK

FREEDOM CALL: FREE TO WALK BY THE SPIRIT
GALATIANS 5:13-6:10



DAY ONE

PRAY: Please open this time and ask the Lord to give you understanding of the freedom we have in Christ.

MEMORIZE: This week's memory verse is Galatians 5:16. "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." Please read the verse several times, emphasizing different words each time you read it. How does emphasizing different words affect your understanding of it?

STUDY: Galatians 5:13-15. God has called us to freedom. How cool is that! The world teaches a different freedom than what the Lord teaches. He teaches freedom FROM sin rather than freedom TO sin. It is easy to be deceived into believing that sin is the prize rather than the prison. Today we'll study to understand what freedom in Christ does and doesn't look like.

1. Please refer to Galatians 4:5-7 to explain the freedom we've been called to.

2. *What insight do the following verses give you about the freedom we have in Christ?

a. 2 Corinthians 3:17

b. 1 Peter 2:16

c. John 8:31-32

3. The flesh is the part of us that tries to function without God. What are some subtle ways we use our freedom as an opportunity for the flesh?

4. *Picture a situation where you have the choice to love someone or be in conflict with them. How is serving others in love freedom? How is biting and devouring one another slavery?

5. Please look at the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20:3-17. In what way do you see those commandments as examples of loving others as yourself. As you consider this, imagine someone treating you according to these commandments, and in opposition to them.

6. Please examine your own walk with the Lord. In what ways do you see yourself using your freedom as an opportunity for your flesh and in what ways are you using your freedom to love others?

Please close this time in prayer, confessing to the Lord any areas you need His help to give up using your freedom as an opportunity for your flesh, and tell Him one way you will seek to use your freedom to love others.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Please ask the Lord to open your heart to whatever He wants to teach you today.

MEMORIZE: Please put the words to Galatians 5:16 in the correct order.

walk I, by gratify the will Spirit, and But desires you not the the flesh of say

_____, _____, _____
_____.
_____.

STUDY: Galatians 5:16-18. One of our biggest struggles as believers is that we believe God expects us to clean ourselves up in order to come to Him. We understand that our salvation was totally dependent on Jesus' sacrifice for us, but as Galatians 3:3 says, we often think we have to "be perfected by the flesh." Today's passage will give more clarity into why this doesn't work and what to do instead. Today's passage will probably take a little longer than the other days, but it is so important because it helps us understand why we often feel defeated in our walk with God. Please read Galatians 5:16-18 and answer the following questions.

1. Verse 16 starts out with the word, "but," meaning "instead of doing that thing, do this." Please look back on verse 15 to see what we need to avoid doing, and what we need to do instead. Why can't we do both?

2. *Please use the following passages to explain the opposition between our flesh and the Spirit who dwells in us.

a. Ephesians 2:1-3

b. Romans 7:5-6

c. Romans 13:14

3. Verse 18 starts with the word “but.” What is the thing to avoid and what is the thing to do? Does this mean we don’t need to obey God’s word? Please explain your answer. (See Romans 6:12-14 for help.)

4. *Somehow the flesh and the law are tied together. Please use the following verses to explain how they’re connected.

a. Romans 7:7-8

b. Romans 8:1-4

c. Romans 10:4

5. What are the two commands given in relation to the Holy Spirit? What does this tell you about God’s authority, wisdom, and goodness?

6. What does this passage tell you about your ability to obey the Lord in your own strength? What does it tell you about God’s plan and provision for how you obey?

We often feel like we have to repent for not being good enough, but in reality, God never expects us to be good enough. What we need to repent for is thinking that we should be good enough without His help. Please talk with the Lord about this as you close in prayer.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Please ask the Lord to open your heart to understand the slavery of the works of the flesh and the freedom of walking by the Spirit.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the blanks to complete Galatians 5:16.

“But I say, _____ by the _____, and you will not _____ the _____ of the flesh.”

STUDY: Galatians 5:19-26. Remember Galatians 5:17, “For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.” The contrast between the things done in the flesh and walking by the Spirit is polar opposite. Today as you examine those differences, please consider how being in the Spirit is a call to freedom. Please read Galatians 5:19-26 and answer the following questions.

1. Please look at the list of the works of the flesh. Notice the end of the list says, “and things like these.” What similarities do you find in these works of the flesh?

2. *The end of verse 21 says, “those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” The original Greek means that those who continue to make it a practice of doing these things won’t inherit the kingdom of God. If someone were to tell you, “That’s not fair. How could a loving God reject anyone?” what would you tell them?

3. Please choose 3 works of the flesh that you personally struggle with, and explain how these are against the Lord.

4. *Notice that Paul calls the works of the flesh “works”, but he calls the fruit of the Spirit “fruit.” What’s the difference between doing works and bearing fruit?

5. Verse 24 says, “And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” Please use Ephesians 4:21-24 and 5:5-10 to explain why, as those who belong to Christ, we still struggle with sin. What is the difference between struggling with sin and making a practice of sin.

6. How does keeping in step with the Spirit help us not to become conceited?

As you close this time in prayer, please talk to the Lord about any works of the flesh you need to surrender to Him, and tell Him what you see about the freedom He wants to give you.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to give you insight into His heart and character.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the blanks to complete Galatians 5:16.

“But _____ say, _____ by the _____, and _____ will _____ the _____
the _____.”

STUDY: Galatians 6:1-5. Over and over, we see in this letter from Paul that God wants us to be free. It’s so easy to think that living for the flesh is the freedom we want, and living for the Lord puts us in bondage. Today, as we study this passage, let’s continue to ask the question, “How does this give freedom rather than bondage?” Please read Galatians 6:1-5 and answer the following.

1. *The Greek word for “caught” means overtaken. The believer was not seeking the sin, the sin was seeking the believer, and the believer got caught up in it. The word for “restore” is equivalent to setting a broken bone so that it can heal. What ways are we sometimes tempted to handle other believers’ sins rather than in a spirit of gentleness? How does confrontation with wrong motives or refusal to confront tempt us to sin?

2. How is someone’s struggle with sin a burden for them? How can we lovingly bear their burden with them?

3. How does thinking too highly (or too lowly) of ourselves keep us from bearing each other’s burdens?

4. Compare verse 4 with Galatians 5:14. How does testing our own work against Galatians 5:14 keep us from thinking we’re superior to our neighbors?

5. *Please compare verse 2 with verse 5. What is the difference between bearing someone's burden and bearing our own load? Why would it NOT be loving to bear someone's load?

As you close this time in prayer, please speak with the Lord about any way you're challenged by today's passage, and tell Him what this passage teaches you about His heart.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to show you what He wants you to apply to your life from this study, Freedom Call.

MEMORIZE: Please quote Galatians 5:16 from memory. What have you learned about walking by the Spirit versus gratifying the desires of the flesh?

STUDY: Galatians 6:6-10. Paul wrote this letter because he was calling Galatian believers to stop thinking there was a "Jesus and" plan for salvation. There were some who made all kinds of requirements for believers that didn't come from God. And then there were those who swung to the other side of the pendulum and believed that freedom in Christ meant they were free to sin. As you go through this passage today, please consider how God's word combined with the Holy Spirit is the key to protecting us from both. Please read Galatians 6:6-10 and answer the following.

1. For what purpose does God want us to "share all good things with the one who teaches" us the word? What does this tell you about the value of the word?

2. *How does knowing the word keep us from being deceived so that we don't sow to the flesh?

3. How is sowing to the flesh an attempt to mock God?

4. What insight do the following scriptures give you about sowing to the flesh?

a. Galatians 6:8

b. Romans 7:26

c. Romans 8:7-8

5. *What things tempt us to sow to the flesh rather than the Spirit? What can we focus on so that we won't give up?

6. How is this passage a call away from bondage and a call to freedom?

As you close this time in prayer, please look back over what you studied this week. Please tell the Lord one thing you've learned that you'll apply to your call to freedom.



1. *What impacted you from last week's message?
2. *What insight do the following verses give you about the freedom we have in Christ?
 - a. 2 Corinthians 3:17
 - b. 1 Peter 2:16
 - c. John 8:31-32
3. *Picture a situation where you have the choice to love someone or be in conflict with them. How is serving others in love freedom? How is biting and devouring one another slavery?
4. *Please use the following passages to explain the opposition between our flesh and the Spirit who dwells in us.
 - a. Ephesians 2:1-3
 - b. Romans 7:5-6
 - c. Romans 13:14
5. *Somehow the flesh and the law are tied together. Please use the following verses to explain how they're connected.
 - a. Romans 7:7-8
 - b. Romans 8:1-4
 - c. Romans 10:4
6. *The end of verse 21 says, "those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." The original Greek means that those who continue to make it a practice of doing these things won't inherit the kingdom of God. If someone were to tell you, "That's not fair. How could a loving God reject anyone?" what would you tell them?
7. *Notice that Paul calls the works of the flesh "works", but he calls the fruit of the Spirit "fruit." What's the difference between doing works and bearing fruit?
8. *The Greek word for "caught" means overtaken. The believer was not seeking the sin, the sin was seeking the believer, and the believer got caught up in it. The word for "restore" is equivalent to setting a broken bone so that it can heal. What ways are we sometimes tempted to handle other believers' sins rather than in a spirit of gentleness? How does confrontation with wrong motives or refusal to confront tempt us to sin?
9. *Please compare verse 2 with verse 5. What is the difference between bearing someone's burden and bearing our own load? Why would it NOT be loving to bear someone's load?
10. *How does knowing the word keep us from being deceived so that we don't sow to the flesh?
11. *What things tempt us to sow to the flesh rather than the Spirit? What can we focus on so that we won't give up?

LISTENING GUIDE

LISTENING GUIDE

FREEDOM CALL: FREE TO LIVE AS A NEW CREATION

GALATIANS 6:11-18



1. As a new creation in Christ I am _____ by God and no longer find _____
in the acceptance of other people. (12-13)

2. As a new creation in Christ, I am free to live, _____ by the Spirit of Christ and _____ the cross of Christ. (14-18)

3. Closing thoughts on freedom.