

Leaders: Please be looking for an email in the next week or so asking for an RSVP to have you attend a meeting on either September 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> during first service. Pastor Chris will be announcing some important and positive changes to the future of the small groups ministry and needs every leader to attend one of the dates!

### **LEARN**

Read Galatians 5:7-12 together. What stands out to you from the text and what was encouraging/challenging from the sermon on Sunday?

What is the importance of not only believing the truth but *obeying* the truth of the gospel?

(As Christians we need to walk in obedience to the truths we believe. Examples include humbling ourselves, repenting of sin quickly, loving one another, doing all for the glory of God and not self.)

Why does Paul use the metaphor of leaven in verse 9 to talk about how false teaching works in a church?

(False teaching cannot be tolerated, even just a little bit. It's like a contagion that cannot help but spread, and can infect the whole.)

### **PRACTICE**

How do people get hindered from obeying the truth today? What is an example in your own life of something that has hindered you?

(to hinder = to put an obstacle in someone's way, causing them to wander from the truth. False teaching abounds in churches and culture, common to have persuasive/skilled teachers lead many astray by not submitting to the Word.)

How does a wandering church (or Christian) return to freedom? What has been instrumental in your life in seasons where you have wandered?

(Obey the truth of the gospel, return to him who calls you, submit to the Word, and allow the cross to offend.)

In repentance and humility before God, the offense of the cross becomes the beauty of the cross for a Christian. How have you come to savor and love the cross instead of be offended at it?

(The idea here is to aim for a time of testimony and praise about the ongoing change that happens when we focus our attention on Christ's work for us on the cross. Real life examples of humility, worship, prayer, etc.)

### **CHANGE**

The cross offends by opposing your self-righteousness, exposing your utter depravity, removing your glory, and receiving only those who come by faith alone. Which of those are you inclined to be sinfully offended by?

(Prayer suggestion: Challenge the group to spend 10 minutes together in prayer, focusing all of the prayer time on the necessity, beauty, and power of the cross. Encourage repentance, adoration, and prayers declaring God's glory.)