



Life Group Connection Guide

Seeks to help you dig deeper into God's Word on your own and aid in your discussion in a Life Group during the week. Follow the simple prompts below in a journal or together in a small group setting. If you would like to join a midweek Life Group, please contact: jon@neighborhoodchurch.com

May 10 — *Liberated by Grace* (Galatians 4:8-21)

- **Welcome & Ice Breaker:**
 - *What does it mean to be liberated? Are there liberation stories from literature, movies, or even real liberation events from history that have impacted you? Do you have a "liberation story" of your own?*
- **Important Dates:**
 - **Bible Day Camp Registration** Begins Friday, May 26 @ neighborhoodchurch.com
 - **Baptism Sunday** May 17 • Want to follow Jesus in baptism?
 - Email: lorena@neighborhoodchurch.com
- **Opening Prayers:**
 - **Hold yourself before the Lord // Psalm 139:23**
 - *What emotions are you feeling as you come to Life Group?*
 - Hold all of yourself out to Him and sit quietly • Allow God to come close to you & care for you in prayer right now • Listen for His voice/presence/leading
 - **Hold what you are holding before the Lord // Psalm 90:17**
 - *What are you dealing with, working on, preparing for?*
 - Hold it out to Him and sit quietly • Allow God to come close to you & establish the work of your hands • Listen for His voice/presence/leading
 - **Return • Recommit • Repent • Reattach to the LORD who is with you // Psalm 139:24**
 - Draw near to God as He draws near to you
 - *"Heavenly Father, I live and have my being in You: I humbly pray You would so guide & govern me by Your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations in my life that I may not forget You, but may remember that I am ever walking in Your sight; through Jesus Christ my Lord, amen."*
- **Scripture Passage: Galatians 4:8-21**
 - Begin by reading the passage out loud; even a few times if it is a shorter passage in order to let it settle down inside you.
 - As the Scripture is being read, pay attention to any word, phrase, or feeling that the Holy Spirit may be highlighting to you.
 - Then share what you noticed and/or write down your observations as the Spirit leads.

- **Discussion/Personal Reflection**

- What challenged you, or stood out to you during your devotional time with the Lord Jesus this week?

- If you were able to hear it, what did the Holy Spirit point out to you personally from Sunday's sermon?

- Read Galatians 4:8-11. How does legalism actually enslave us? How does God's grace liberate us from bondage? How have you experienced God's liberating grace in your own life? Moving you from bondage to liberty?

- Read Galatians 4:12-17. Paul cautions the Galatian believers against following the false teachers who have come in with a different message, adding additional requirements to the gospel of grace. What is the problem with adding anything to the gospel? If it were true we need something else + Jesus, what does that tell us about Jesus? How would Jesus + something else render Jesus an insufficient savior for the world? What messages do we need to be aware of from false teachers today?

- Read Galatians 4:21-23. Here, Paul talks about Abraham's two sons. What are the differences between the two sons? How were they conceived? What does each son represent? What do you think it mean to choose Sarah as our spiritual mother? Why do you think Paul uses these 2 sons as an example of adding to the Gospel vs. trusting in the Gospel? When in life do we take matters into our own hands as opposed to waiting on the Lord to complete His work?

- **Closing in Prayer:**

- *Ministries/Missionaries: Lance & Susan Peterson*
 - *Serving in Cuba May 13-18*
 - *Please pray as they join our missionaries at Campo Amor & strengthen the house churches there!*
- Consider those who the Holy Spirit may be placing on your heart to pray for this day. Seek to hold them up to the Lord for His intervening love in their lives or in your own.
"Lord, who are You putting on my heart today? Who needs a special touch from You in their life? Who can I hold up to You in prayer?"