



Sermon Discussion Guide

3.8.26 Message | Keith Ehresman | Galatians 4:1-7

Note: This discussion guide is designed for both group and individual use. While some questions are written with group discussion in mind, individuals can still use this guide for personal reflection, journaling, and prayer. Simply adapt any group-oriented questions for your own study time.

LOOK BACK - Relationship & Accountability (~15% of your discussion)

→ Share Life

- What's something simple you're thankful for right now?
- What's been taking most of your attention lately?
- Is there anyone in your community who needs help right now, and how can our group come alongside them?

→ Follow Up From Last Time

- As you think back to last week, what stood out or stayed with you?
- Was there anything you felt invited to try, practice, or pay attention to this week? How did that go?
- Did that show up in any conversations, choices, or moments this week?
- Where did you see God at work - even in small ways?

LOOK UP - Scripture & Discovery (~60%)

→ Read (twice, in different translations)

- Read the text you are studying this week in the ESV out loud.
- Read the text you are studying this week a second time in an alternate version.

→ Retell

- In your own words, summarize what the author is saying in this passage.

Key Scripture (ESV)

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- Galatians 4:1-7

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Before Christ, we lived like heirs who had a promise but not yet the freedom, still living with a slave mentality shaped by fear, performance, and trying to earn approval.
 - God acted at the perfect moment in history by sending His Son to redeem us from slavery under the law.
 - Redemption means Jesus paid the cost to bring us back to God; adoption means we receive full family rights as sons and daughters.
 - In Christ, we are not partially accepted or on probation; we are fully adopted into God's family with a secure inheritance.
 - God sends His Spirit into the hearts of believers so we can know Him not just as God, but as our Father.
 - Because of Jesus, believers are no longer slaves trying to earn approval but sons and daughters who live from a relationship with the Father.
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CONVERSATION STARTER

Think about a time when you felt like you had to prove yourself in order to be accepted: maybe at work, in school, on a team, or even in relationships.

Why do you think it's so easy for people to carry that same mindset into their relationship with God?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE (Does your group understand the message?)

- What did you like about this passage?
- Did you find anything difficult about this passage?
- What does this passage teach about God?
- What does this passage teach about people?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

- In **Galatians 4:1–3**, Paul compares an heir who is still a child to a servant who lives under guardians and managers. What picture do you think Paul is trying to help us see with this illustration?

- In **Galatians 4:3**, Paul says people were “enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.”

Without solving it yet, what do you think Paul might mean by that? What clues from the passage help you understand it?

- In **verse 4**, Paul says, “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son.”

What does that phrase suggest about how God works in history or in our lives?

- In **verses 4–5**, Paul says Jesus came to redeem people and bring them into adoption as sons and daughters. What stands out to you about those two ideas?

- In **verse 6**, Paul says believers cry out “Abba, Father.” What does that reveal about the kind of relationship God wants with His people?

- **Verse 7** says believers are no longer slaves but sons and daughters—and heirs through God.

What difference might that make in how someone sees their life or their relationship with God?

BRIDGE QUESTION

Based on this passage, what kinds of responses does it invite? What direction does it point our lives toward?

LOOK FORWARD – Application & Mission (~25%)

→ **Inside Me**

- Where do I need to bring my sin into the light instead of hiding it?
- What is one concrete step of obedience I can take this week to pursue Jesus in that area?

→ **Who Else?**

- Who might need encouragement that grace is real and change is possible?
- How can I move toward them with love and truth this week?

→ **Pray Together**

- Pray for clarity to see Jesus more clearly and follow Him faithfully.
- Pray for strength to resist anything that competes for our allegiance and next steps.
- Pray for courage and grace to take the next faithful step that God is inviting us into.