

Galatians

Leader Guide

(NASB and ESV)

WHO HAS BEWITCHED
YOU? WHY AND HOW?

Galatians Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

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USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out

When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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**GALATIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1**

Lesson emphasis:

Overview of Galatians

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group if something in Galatians stood out to them or ministered to them in a special way. Give a brief time for them to share.

Tell them to look at their lists about the author, recipients, and others as visual aids for this discussion. Then ask:

Who was the author?

Paul

Who were the recipients?

Churches of Galatia

What was the relationship between Paul and the churches of Galatia?

He preached the gospel to them.

A couple of questions from the lesson that you can ask are Day Four #3. “What was going on in the region of Galatia? From what you’ve observed, how would you describe it?”

Some were teaching circumcision and the Law, putting the Galatians in bondage / slavery.

Why did he write this letter to them?

They had been exposed to deception. People were disturbing / troubling them with a different gospel, a distortion of the true. Some of the people who had heard Paul’s gospel were quickly deserting and turning to the false.

Paul wrote to correct the false and to explain what true salvation is.

Tell your group to look at their list of chapter themes as a visual aid for the rest of this discussion. Then ask about the content of each chapter, one at a time.

Give time for them to discuss any pertinent application as it comes up.

GALATIANS 1

What is this chapter about?

NOTE: If your group discusses the chapter sufficiently from that question, then move to Galatians 2. But if they need a little more guidance from questions, you can ask the following:

Verses 1-9

Who and what are these verses about?

Paul began with the fact that he was an apostle sent by God and not men.
He was not alone when he wrote this letter, some unnamed brothers were with him.

The churches of Galatia are addressed, and verses 6-9 give specific information about them. Paul was amazed / astonished at their quick desertion from Him who called them by grace.

Those who were preaching a different gospel were to be accursed.

You might ask your group if they think this is still the case and how it applies to them. What have they been listening to?

Verses 10-24

Who is the rest of this chapter about, and what does it say about him?

Paul and his gospel

Verses 10-17 tell how he received his gospel.
He said he was called by grace and made an apostle to Gentiles.

NOTE: The gospel will be studied more in depth in the next lesson, so you don't need to spend much time on it in this overview discussion.

Verses 18-24 continue about Paul and where he went after hearing and believing the gospel.

What is a possible theme or summary of this chapter?

Galatians deserted, others preached different gospel; Paul's gospel

GALATIANS 2

Ask what they noted as a theme for this chapter.

Maybe something like: Paul and his gospel to Jerusalem; Peter in Antioch—hypocrisy

Verses 1-10

What happened in these verses?

Paul went again to Jerusalem because of a revelation. He took Barnabas and Titus with him. He submitted the gospel he preached to those of reputation there. He wanted to be sure he wasn't preaching in vain.

Some false brethren tried to bring them into bondage, but they didn't yield to them.

James, Cephas, and John gave the right hand of fellowship to them. Peter was an apostle to the Jews (circumcision), and Paul was called to the Gentiles. The Galatians were Gentiles.

Verses 11-21

Who are these verses about? What happened?

Cephas, another name for Peter, went to Antioch where Paul confronted him for his hypocrisy—not eating with the Gentiles after some Jews came from James in Jerusalem.

Even Barnabas was caught up in the hypocrisy. Cephas feared the “party of the circumcision / circumcision party,” Jews, and it led to his sin and others’.

You might ask your group if they've experienced something similar—participated in it or seen others do it. How can it be prevented?

Lead the discussion back to the text of Galatians 2 and ask about the rest of the chapter.

Paul's words to Cephas lead to the main points of this letter—no one is justified by works of the law, but by faith in Christ. The gospel is a call by faith and grace, not legalism.

True believers are crucified with Christ, and He lives within each one. That's an amazing fact and will be studied in-depth in a later lesson.

Keeping a law leads to bondage. Life in Christ by faith is liberty.

GALATIANS 3

How does this chapter begin?

Someone had bewitched the Galatians; works of the law as opposed to living by faith. The Holy Spirit is referred to several times in this chapter. He will also be studied later.

NOTE: An overview discussion can be an encouragement for your group to continue in their study of later lessons. Use this time to help them become excited about studying Galatians.

Who is the example in this chapter? What is said about him?

Abraham believed God and was reckoned / counted righteous.

Righteousness is a result of faith in Christ Jesus, not keeping a law.

God promised back in Abraham's time that all nations would be blessed.
The Gentiles would hear the gospel and be justified by faith.

There is a lot about the Law in this chapter which will be studied so your group can understand how it all relates to life now.

How does this chapter end?

Anyone who believes in Jesus Christ is God's child. There is no Jew, Greek, slave, free, male, or female. All are one in Him.

Ask your group what they think about this. Do they have this view of all believers, especially those who are different from them?

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Receive the Spirit by faith, so why the Law?

GALATIANS 4

Ask what they noted as a possible theme for this chapter.

No longer slaves, sons and heirs of freedom

How does this chapter continue from the previous one? What is the flow of thought?

Paul continues about the slave and the son, heir.
True believers have God's Spirit because of being His children.
We are heirs, not slaves.

Paul spoke of an illness / ailment he had when with the Galatians and how they received him. Then he asked if he had become their enemy because he told them the truth. He was perplexed about the Galatians.

The end of this chapter is an allegory about slavery and liberty / freedom in Christ.

You might ask your group if they feel like they are slaves in their Christianity. How do Christians sometimes act like slaves of the Law?

GALATIANS 5

Who and what is this chapter about?

Paul continued his contrast of liberty or freedom and the bondage or slavery which the Law brought.

Circumcision went along with trying to keep the law. They had fallen from grace. This statement will also be studied later.

The Galatians were doing well in their Christianity until someone came in to hinder them from obedience by faith.

Paul explains about the Christian life being one of love for one another and being led by the Spirit.

You might ask your group if they have memorized Galatians 5:22-23. Then tell them they are going to study this in context.

This explains Christ in you (chapter 2)—by His Spirit.

There is another contrast: the flesh and the Spirit. How to live

Ask how your group summarized this chapter.

Circumcision, love, walk by Spirit not flesh

GALATIANS 6

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Bear one another's burdens; sow and reap; boast in the cross

How does Paul end this letter?

This chapter contains several specific instructions about living with other believers. All of these will be studied later.

His closing statements are about his relationship with Christ Jesus.

Ask your group if they summarized Galatians. What does it seem to be about?

Galatians 2:20 might be the verse they used as a summary.

How does Galatians apply to us?

Do you see in Paul's life anything you want to imitate?

Do you see anything about the Galatians you don't want to imitate?

Why was Paul so strong in his language to the Galatians?
What did he think was at stake for the church?
Give time for your group to share.

**GALATIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2**

Lesson emphasis:

Galatians 1
Paul and the gospel

REVIEW

It's best to begin your discussion with a review of the main points about Galatians. This helps your group to remember what all of Galatians is about.

NOTE: When they finish this course, we want them to be able to remember the flow of thought in Galatians and the main points of this book of the Bible.

You can ask who wrote this letter. To whom and why?

Paul wrote the letter to the churches at Galatia.
Some people had distorted the gospel and disturbed / troubled the Galatians with their teaching and influence.

The Galatians were deserting Him who called them by grace for this distortion of Christianity. They heard that they were to keep the Law and be circumcised, and some of them were bewitched by what they heard.

They had begun well, but were hindered by this teaching.

Paul wrote this letter to correct the problem.

GALATIANS 1

Now, lead your group to discuss what they studied in this lesson.

NOTE: Ask general questions to stimulate discussion. But if they need more specific ones, then you can use the following.

Verses 1-5

How does Galatians begin?

Tell your group to look at their lists "God, Jesus Christ, and Grace" as a visual aid for this discussion.

Paul begins with his being an apostle sent from Jesus Christ, not men.
God the Father is also mentioned in verse 1; He raised Jesus from the dead.

Paul wasn't alone when he wrote this letter; there were unnamed brothers with him.

He wrote it, not to a church or individual, but to churches in the region of Galatia.

According to the chart "Sequence of Events in Paul's Life after His Conversion," when did he write Galatians?

During or shortly after his 1st missionary journey, on which he went to Galatia

Tell your group to also look at their map as they discuss the geographical locations in this chapter.

In verse 3, Paul greeted the churches with "grace to you and peace."

The churches needed to remember grace. They needed to remember peace.
They were being disturbed / troubled by a distortion—law instead of grace.

There are some statements about the Father and Son in verses 3-5.

Jesus gave Himself for our sins to rescue / deliver us from this present evil age.
The Galatians were experiencing some of this evil.

Jesus' death was the Father's will, as is His rescuing / delivering believers.
These things glorify the Father.

Verses 6-12

Who and what are the emphases of these verses?

Paul was amazed / astonished.
The Galatian churches were quickly deserting the grace of the Lord.

The gospel is the main point of these verses. Paul explained the difference between the true gospel, which he gave the Galatians, and the one being preached, a distortion.

His language is strong about those who were preaching a different gospel.

At this point, ask what they learned about the gospel from the cross-references, 1 Corinthians 15 and Romans 1. Direct them to their page "Paul's Definition of the Gospel in 1 Corinthians and Romans."

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

The gospel Paul preached was about Jesus Christ.

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.
He was buried.
He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.
He appeared to many.

Romans 1:1-5, 15-17

As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15, the gospel was according to the Scriptures—promised by God through the Old Testament prophets.

It is about Jesus Christ, who He is and what He did—His death and resurrection.

Paul also wrote about his apostleship in these verses. He received grace to preach to the Gentiles / nations.

This gospel is God’s power for salvation for both Jews and Greeks (Gentiles).
All are saved the same way, by believing the same message.
Salvation is by God’s grace.

Lead your discussion back to Galatians 1:6-12.

What did Paul write about those who distort the gospel? Who preach a different gospel?

They are accursed! And it’s emphasized by the repetition.

You can ask your group what “gospel” they are hearing today. What are they presenting as the gospel? Has the gospel changed for modern times? Are people who are preaching a different gospel still accursed? Where is the power for salvation—true salvation? Give time for them to discuss the answers to these application questions.

Help your group understand how Galatians 1:10 applies to the application questions above.

According to verses 11-12, how did Paul receive the gospel? Where did it come from?

It wasn’t from men. Relate this to his apostleship in verse 1.
Jesus Christ revealed it to Paul.

Verses 13-17

What are these verses about?

Paul’s salvation

His former life

Advancing in Judaism

Persecuted the church, tried to destroy it

Extremely zealous for Jewish traditions

Paul understood what those who were disturbing the Galatians thought,
what they were trying to do.

How do the cross-references about him before salvation add to what Galatians says?

Philippians 3:4-6

He had confidence in his flesh as a religious Jew—a Pharisee (the strictest sect of Judaism), blameless according to the Law. Again he wrote about his zeal, here as a persecutor of the church.

Acts 7:54–8:3

Saul (Paul) was in hearty agreement (ESV—approved of his execution) with stoning Stephen as part of persecuting the church. This was when he began ravaging the church to put people in prison.

1 Timothy 1:12-16

This gives another description from Paul about his former life—blasphemer, persecutor, violent aggressor / insolent opponent, unbeliever. He considered himself the foremost of sinners.

Lead your discussion back to Galatians 1:15.

The contrast in verse 15 is when God saved him.
Set apart from his mother’s womb (ESV—before he was born)
Called through grace
God revealed His Son in Paul’s life when He pleased

How do the passages in Acts relate to these verses in Galatians 1?
Tell your group to look at the chart “The Accounts in Acts of Paul’s Conversion.”

Acts 9:1-18

Paul was in process of persecuting the church, trying to destroy it.
He heard the Lord Jesus ask him why he was persecuting Him.
Verse 17 says the Lord appeared to Paul.

Paul was obedient to what the Lord told him to do.
Ananias had a vision in which the Lord told him about Paul’s ministry.
Bear / Carry Jesus’ name before:
Gentiles, kings, and Israel

Acts 21:37–22:22

Paul spoke this in Hebrew to the Jews in Jerusalem.
Verse 3 tells his background—educated according to the Law and zealous for God.

He understood what they were thinking, just as he did those who distorted the gospel to the Galatians.

Verse 10 says he was told of all that was appointed for him to do.

Ananias told him God had appointed him to:

Know His will, see the Righteous One, and hear from His mouth
Be a witness for Him to all men

The Lord said He would send Paul far away to the Gentiles.
When he went to Galatia, he was far from Israel.

Acts 26:1-20

This defense was before King Agrippa in Caesarea where Paul was held for two years.
In Acts 9, the Lord had told him he would stand before kings.

Verse 8, God raises the dead.

In verse 14, Paul added that Jesus told him it was hard to kick against the goads—hard to go against the truth.

Jesus told him there on the road that he was appointed a minister / servant and witness.
He was sending him to the Gentiles to open their eyes:

To turn from darkness to light
Satan's dominion to God
To receive forgiveness of sins
To receive an inheritance / place by faith in Christ Jesus

Paul did that and told the Gentiles about deeds appropriate to repentance.

In Galatians 1:15, Paul said he was called by grace. Ask your group what they learned about the connection between grace and the gospel.

John 1:16-17

The Law was given through Moses and grace was realized / came through Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-10

Paul wrote this letter.

Jews and Gentiles are saved by grace; the surpassing / immeasurable riches of God's grace in kindness in Christ Jesus—by grace saved through faith.

As a result, there are the good works God prepared for believers to walk in.

Titus 2:11

God's grace appeared, bringing salvation to all men, Jews and Gentiles.
All redeemed by Jesus Christ. Verses 12-14 tell of the results of salvation by grace.

Ephesians 1:1-8

God lavished His grace on believers with blessings, redemption, and forgiveness.
He chose believers before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless.

How does this description of true salvation compare with what is being preached now?
Give your group time to discuss what true salvation is.

Lead your discussion back to Galatians 1:16-24. What did Paul do after he was saved?

He didn't immediately consult with men or go to the apostles in Jerusalem.

He went to Arabia and then back to Damascus.

Three years later he went to Jerusalem and stayed with Cephas (Peter) 15 days.
The only other one he saw was James, the Lord's brother.

Paul then went to Syria and Cilicia preaching the gospel.

The churches in Judea heard about him and were glorifying God.
He was preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.

To end your discussion, ask your group how these truths relate to their lives.
Have they truly been saved? Do they know and preach the gospel?

**GALATIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3**

Lesson emphasis:
Galatians 2

REVIEW

To begin your discussion, ask the group what they remember about why Galatians was written.

What does chapter 1 say about the Galatian churches and Paul?

Paul was amazed / astonished that the Galatians were quickly deserting Him who called by grace.

Some people had distorted the gospel and disturbed / troubled the Galatians with their teaching and influence.

Paul wrote this letter to correct the problem, and in chapter 1 he told how he had received the gospel he preached.

The true gospel is about Jesus Christ—His death and resurrection. It's God's power for salvation to those who believe, Jew and Gentile.

Tell your group to look at the map as a visual aid for this discussion.
How did chapter 1 end? Where did Paul go, and what did he do?

Paul went to Jerusalem three years after he'd been saved.
When he did go, he saw Cephas (Peter) and James, Jesus' brother.

Then he went into Syria and Cilicia. The Judean churches heard of what he was doing and glorified God because of it.

GALATIANS 2

Verses 1-10

How does this chapter continue from the first?

Paul continued writing about events in his life.
Fourteen years later he went to Jerusalem again because of a revelation.
Barnabas and Titus went with him.

They went in private to James, Peter, and John; and Paul submitted (ESV—set before) to them the gospel he preached. He wanted to be sure his message to the Gentiles was not in vain. They contributed / added nothing to Paul’s gospel.

They agreed with him and his ministry to the degree that Titus was not compelled / forced to be circumcised.

And they gave Barnabas and Paul the right hand of fellowship

Paul’s ministry to the Gentiles

The apostles in Jerusalem, especially Peter, to the circumcised (Jews)

While there, some false brethren / brothers tried to bring them into bondage / slavery. The contrast in verse 4 is between bondage / slavery and liberty / freedom, which they had in Christ Jesus.

NOTE: Encourage your group that they’ll study more about this contrast in later lessons.

How does Genesis 17 state the importance of circumcision? Why was it important to the Jews of Paul’s time?

Genesis 17:9-14

Circumcision is the sign of God’s everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants / offspring. Jews are descended from Abraham.

Every male is to be circumcised at eight days of age. If one is not circumcised, he has broken God’s covenant and is to be cut off from his people.

At this point, you might ask your group what they learned from Acts 15.

Acts 15:1-21

Paul and Barnabas were sent from the church at Antioch to the church apostles and elders in Jerusalem because of a dissention about circumcision being necessary for salvation.

This reason for going to Jerusalem is different from what Galatians 2 says—Paul went in private to the apostles because of a revelation, and checked out the gospel he was preaching.

Paul and Barnabas reported what the Lord had done among the Gentiles when they went on their “first missionary journey.”

NOTE: They had gone to the churches in Galatia on that journey.

Peter reported how he had been the first one to go to Gentiles.
Both Jews and Gentiles are saved by God’s grace, faith in Jesus Christ.
There is no distinction in salvation.

James's solution to the Jewish believers who wanted to require that the saved Gentiles be circumcised and keep the Law was not to add that burden. The Jews hadn't been able to keep the Law.

NOTE: This does not seem to be the same event as recorded in Galatians 2, but don't let your group get into a debate about whether or not they agree.

Lead your discussion back to Galatians 2. Who and what are verses 11-14 about?

Peter went to Antioch at some point in time. Things went well until some men from James got there. Peter fell into some temporary hypocrisy because he feared the "party of the circumcision / circumcision party."

As a result of Peter's hypocrisy, the other Jews did the same, even Barnabas.

Paul confronted him publicly because his sin was public.

You might ask your group if they've ever fallen into temporary hypocrisy. Why? Give them time to discuss the damage that kind of thing can do to other believers.

Why should Peter have known better?

He was the first to take the gospel to the Gentiles at Cornelius's home.

Acts 11:1-18

Peter explained to the Jewish believers in Jerusalem what happened when the Spirit sent him to the Gentiles. He spoke the gospel, and they were saved the same way Jews are—belief in Jesus Christ and repentance. They received life.

How can believers prevent hypocrisy?

One way is by knowing that God makes no distinction. He is not partial to one group or person above another.

Another thing is to stand in the truth one knows, not fearing or seeking to please men, but Christ.

Verses 15-21

What are these verses about and how do they fit with the rest of the chapter?

NOTE: Some Bible scholars think these verses are part of Paul's statements to Peter in Antioch, but others don't agree.

Paul continued his flow of thought, making his case for justification by faith alone—without adding anything.

Another contrast—justification by faith and not the Law
justify—“declare righteous”¹
No one, Jew or Gentile, is made righteous by keeping the Law.

That only happens when one believes on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul wrote the same thing in Romans 3:19-20.
The Law gives the knowledge of sin. It specifies what sin is.

Paul wasn't going to put himself back under the Law that he tried to keep before being saved. He wasn't going to rebuild what he had destroyed / torn down.

He had died to the Law.

How did Paul describe his new life in Christ?
You might list the following on a visual aid.

Living to God
Compare this with Galatians 1:10.

Crucified with Christ

Paul lived no longer, only Christ living in him

A life of faith in the Son who loved and gave Himself

Ask your group to discuss how each of these applies to their lives. Give the rest of your discussion time for this.

You can end this discussion by asking what verse 21 means.

Christ did not die needlessly (ESV—for no purpose)
Righteousness does not come through Law
So, don't nullify His grace by trying to live under a law after being saved

And don't present a law as part of the gospel message for salvation

¹ Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998). G1344.

**GALATIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4**

Lesson emphasis:
Galatians 3

REVIEW

To begin your discussion, ask the group what they remember about Galatians 1 and 2. If they need help remembering, direct them to their Galatians at a Glance chart.

Galatians 1

Paul was amazed / astonished by the Galatians quickly deserting Him who called by grace. Some people had distorted the gospel and disturbed / troubled the Galatians with their teaching and influence.

Paul wrote this letter to correct the problem, and in chapter 1 he told how he had received the gospel he preached.

At the end of the chapter, Paul wrote about going to Jerusalem where he saw Cephas (Peter) and James, Jesus' brother. Then he went into Syria and Cilicia. The Judean churches heard he was preaching the faith and glorified God because of him.

Galatians 2

This chapter begins with Paul making another trip to Jerusalem when he presented his gospel to Peter, James, and John. They added nothing to what he preached and gave him the right hand of fellowship to continue his ministry to the Gentiles.

Peter went to Antioch where Paul confronted him for his hypocrisy because of fearing the Jews.

At the end of this chapter, he began explaining the contrast of Law and faith. Men, Jews and Gentiles, are not justified by works of the Law. Salvation begins with faith in Christ Jesus and continues the same way—living because He lives within true believers.

GALATIANS 3

What is this chapter about?

This continues the contrast between faith and the Law.
And the Spirit is introduced in this chapter.

Tell your group to look at their chart “What Galatians Teaches About the Law and Faith” as a visual aid for this discussion.

Verses 1-5

How does this chapter begin?

Paul asked questions, questions to make the Galatians think.
These questions should also make anyone who reads this letter think.
Think about being foolish by trying to live by works and not faith.

The Galatians were foolish and bewitched by those who were distorting the calling of grace.

Jesus had been presented to them as crucified—He didn't die needlessly / for no purpose, 2:21.

NOTE: The word "portrayed" in verse 1 is proe-graphē and means "to write for public reading."² It doesn't mean the Galatians saw Jesus crucified in Jerusalem.

The next question asked if they received the Spirit by works of the Law or by faith.
The answer is that the Spirit of Christ is given by grace when one believes.
Relate this to 2:20. Christ lives within as Spirit.

The next point in Paul's reasoning is that those who receive the Spirit by faith in Christ Jesus are not perfected by the flesh, keeping the Law.

Verse 4 refers to the Galatians' prior suffering, evidently for the gospel. It would have been for nothing, vain, if they believed the distortion they heard.

The last question in these verses asks about the Lord providing the Spirit and working miracles. He doesn't work by the Law.

At this point, you might ask your group how this line of reasoning, verses 1-5, helps them think about their Christian lives. Are they foolish in their thinking? Have they been bewitched into thinking that they are to live by what they do instead of by faith? Give time for them to discuss.

Verses 6-9

How do these verses continue Paul's line of reasoning about faith?

He gives an example of one who was made righteous (justified) by faith.
Abraham was known by all who taught circumcision and / or the Law.

Abraham was justified by faith, and all those who have faith are his sons, even Gentiles.
God promised the Gentiles would be saved by faith as far back as His promises to Abraham. He preached the gospel to him saying all nations would be blessed in Him.

²Donald K. Campbell, "Galatians," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 596.

What do the Genesis cross-references add about Abraham?

Genesis 11:29-30

To begin with, his name was Abram. His wife Sarai was barren; they had no children.

Genesis 12:1-5

This passage records the promises God made to Abram. The last part of verse 3 is quoted in Galatians 3:8—“in you all the families [nations] of the earth will be blessed.”

Abram was 75 years old and still had no child.

Genesis 15

The main points of this passage are that the Lord promised Abram descendants / offspring as numerous as the stars, and he believed in Him. His belief was reckoned (counted) as righteousness. He was justified by his faith.

That day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and promised the land to his descendants / offspring.

Romans 4:13-25

God promised Abraham that he would be heir of the world; He promised descendants.

Righteousness by faith didn't come by keeping the Law, but by faith. And Abraham is the father of all who believe.

Abraham believed God is able to perform / do what He promises—even raise the dead.

Lead your discussion back to Galatians 3:10-18. How does Paul's reasoning continue?

Paul turned to focus on the Law and repeated that no one is justified by it. Abraham wasn't, and no other person has been.

The Law brings a curse to anyone who doesn't keep all of it. Christ redeemed us from that curse. The Galatians were being taught that His death and resurrection were not enough to make believers righteous.

Christ became the curse on the cross. All who believe in Him are no longer under that curse. True believers are made righteous, justified, like Abraham was—by faith.

True believers receive the Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ—His death and resurrection. And the righteous, those who have been justified, live by faith, begin the Christian life by faith, and continue to live by faith because He lives within.

Romans 1:16-17

Righteousness by faith is the gospel message and always has been. The power for salvation is in the gospel, for both Jew and Gentile.

Ask your group what this means—to live by faith. How is it done? Where does it begin—in the doing or in the thinking? How important is it to know the truth? How does that relate to living by faith? Give time for them to discuss this.

The Galatians were led astray by wrong belief. Beware.

What did Paul bring up in Galatians 3:15-18?

The promises were to Abraham and his seed / offspring, literally Christ.
God made a covenant with him.

The Law came 430 years after the Abrahamic covenant and doesn't invalidate it.
The inheritance for Abraham's descendants / offspring was not based on law.

Ask your group what they learned from the passages in Genesis and Exodus about the timing of the Abrahamic Covenant and the Law.

Genesis 26:1-5

God passed the oath and the promise to Abraham's son Isaac.

Genesis 28:10-14

Then He passed it on to Jacob, Isaac's son.

Genesis 32:28

God changed Jacob's name to Israel.

Genesis 46:2-7

The Lord told Jacob (Israel) to go to Egypt. He would make him a great nation there.
So, Israel went to Egypt.

Exodus 12:40-41

Israel was in Egypt 430 years.

NOTE: In case it comes up, Genesis 15 says 400 years was the time in slavery. When Israel first went to Egypt, they were not in bondage. But don't bring this up if no one says it.

Exodus 24:3-8

Moses led Israel in making a covenant with God. It was based on God's words in the book of the covenant—the Law. This was different from the Abrahamic covenant and was based on Israel keeping the Law which they agreed to.

What is the question being asked and answered in Galatians 3:19-22?

Why the Law? Why was it given?

The answer is—sin. It was given because of transgressions.

Romans 3:20; 7:7

The Law was given to show what sin is. The knowledge of sin comes by the Law.

God's law is right and defines righteous living.

The Law

was in effect until the seed / offspring came—Jesus Christ
is not contrary to God's previous promises, especially to Abraham
is not able to impart or give life—that's what faith in the promises does

As a result of the Law, all were under sin. The Savior redeems from sin and death.

Verses 23-29

What is the purpose of the Law?

A tutor / guardian to lead to Christ

The Law shows a person what his sin is, and that he cannot keep the law.
That knowledge leads to a need for a Savior.

He came, and faith in Him came, so believers are no longer under the Law.

All who believe

Jews or Gentiles
slaves or free
male or female

are all one in Christ.

Ask your group if they truly believe this—that they are one with other believers. Do they live like it?

To summarize this chapter, you can ask what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme.

Maybe they wrote something similar to:

Receive the Spirit by faith. Why the Law?

You might end this discussion by directing them to the chart in the lesson "Before Faith" and "After Faith."

Ask what they saw as a life of true faith.

What is the difference from before to after?

Does this describe them?

Give time for them to discuss a life of faith.

NOTE: There might possibly be people in your group who have never truly been saved. They may have been living in bondage under the law, trying to live the Christian life on their own. So, this lesson can be what shows them the truth.

GALATIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis:
Galatians 4

REVIEW

To begin your discussion, ask the group what they remember about Galatians 1–3. If they need help remembering, direct them to their Galatians at a Glance chart.

Galatians 1

Paul was amazed / astonished that the Galatians were quickly deserting Him who called by grace. Some people had distorted the gospel and disturbed / troubled the Galatians with their teaching and influence.

Paul wrote this letter to correct the problem, and in chapter 1 he told how he had received the gospel he preached.

Galatians 2

Paul presented his gospel to Peter, James, and John. They added nothing to what he preached and gave him the right hand of fellowship to continue his ministry to the Gentiles.

Paul confronted Peter for his hypocrisy because of fearing the Jews.

At the end of this chapter, he began explaining the contrast of Law and faith. Men, Jews and Gentiles, are not justified by works of the Law. Salvation begins with faith in Christ Jesus and continues the same way—living because He lives within true believers.

Galatians 3

This continues the contrast between faith and the Law.

The Spirit is introduced in this chapter.

Abraham is the example of righteousness by faith.

The reason for the Law is explained—transgressions, tutor / guardian to lead to Christ. Faith in Him brings justification=made righteous.

All who believe are sons of God, heirs.

As a visual aid for this discussion, you might draw stick figures of a person in bondage / slavery and one who is free. You can add to it as the discussion progresses through the chapter. See the end of this guide for an example.

GALATIANS 4

Verses 1-7

How does this chapter continue the statements about sons and heirs? Ask about the cross-references also.

Paul told the Galatians they were no longer slaves, but true sons of God and heirs. That's true of all believers, Jews and Gentiles.

Paul used an example to demonstrate this spiritual truth.

When an heir is a child, he doesn't differ from a slave in his father's house.

But when the date set by his father comes, he is treated as the heir.

The Father sent His Son when the fullness of time came so those in bondage / slavery might be redeemed by Him.

The Jews were kept in bondage / slavery under the Law.

“We” in these verses might refer to Jewish believers and “you” to Gentile believers, the Galatians.

Believers are adopted as sons of God. Jews in verse 5 and Gentiles in verse 6. Relate this to Galatians 3:26-29.

Because they're sons, believers receive the Spirit of God's Son. No longer slaves, believers are heirs.

John 1:12-13

Those who believe in Jesus are born of God. He gives them the right to be His children.

Romans 8:14-17

All who are led by the Spirit of God are His sons. The contrast is between a spirit of slavery and a spirit of adoption.

The Spirit testifies with believers' spirits that they are His children, heirs with Christ. His Spirit within true believers tells them they are His.

Ephesians 1:13-14

Believers are sealed in Christ with the Holy Spirit, the pledge / guarantee of inheritance.

1 Peter 1:3-5

The merciful God causes true believers to be born again through Jesus Christ's resurrection to receive an inheritance now reserved / kept in heaven.

But here and now believers are protected / guarded by His power as His sons.

Give your group time to discuss application of these truths. How do they know for sure they are God's children? How do they know the Holy Spirit is in their lives?

Lead your discussion back to Galatians 4, and ask about verses 8-11 and the cross-reference.

There is a contrast between before and after being saved, knowing God.
The Galatians were enslaved before knowing God and being known by Him.
Paul asked them a question in verse 9. Why would they go back and be enslaved again?

According to verses 3 and 9 and Colossians 2, what kind of things enslave both Jews and Gentiles?

Elemental things (ESV—elementary principles) of the world, weak and worthless

Colossians 2:8, 20-23

These things take people captive
philosophy and empty deception
appearance of wisdom, but not valuable against fleshly indulgence
decrees, commandments and teachings of men

These are opposed to living by faith in Christ.

Verse 10 lists some of those things the Galatians were doing.

Observing days, months, seasons, and years
These things might have been taught by the Judaizers who were teaching the Law.
And Gentiles also had certain days they observed.

Because of their turning to these kinds of things, Paul feared that his labors over them were in vain—worthless. Compare verse 11 with verse 20. He was perplexed about them.

You might ask if anyone has tried to practice something designed to keep the flesh under control. Then ask how that worked. Encourage them that the next lesson has the answer for controlling the flesh.

Verses 12-20

What are these verses about?

Paul recounted some facts about when he was with the Galatians, preaching the gospel to them.

He had an illness / ailment (probably having to do with his eyes) which was a trial to them. But they received him as they would have an angel or Jesus Himself.

So he asked if he had become their enemy by telling them the truth.

Verse 17 is about those who were disturbing / troubling them—they sought (ESV—made much of) the Galatians. They wanted to shut the Galatians out from the truth, so the Galatians would seek / make much of them.

Ask your group how that happens now. Are they being sought by someone who is telling them things to put them back in bondage? Do they recognize the elementary things of the world? Do they recognize those who are seeking them?

Verse 18 is a contrast with verse 17.

Paul sought them in a commendable way—they were his children, and he was very concerned about them. He wanted to see them. Being sought in a commendable way by anyone is not bad.

His desire was for Christ to be formed in them, not that they keep laws.

Verses 21-31

What is the question beginning these verses?

Do you listen to the Law? What does it say regarding those who desire to live under it?
The answer is in the form of an allegory about two covenants, the old and the new.

At this point you can list the main points under each of your stick figures on your visual aid. And tell your group to look at their diagram or chart in the lesson.

Abraham had two sons

- one by a bondwoman / slave woman, Hagar
 - Covenant from Mt. Sinai in Arabia, the Law
 - Present Jerusalem (Jews under the Law)
 - Son born according to the flesh, persecuted son of Spirit
 - All her children are in slavery

They are not heirs.

- one by the free woman
 - From Jerusalem above, the new covenant
 - Isaac, born according to the Spirit
 - Children of promise

Believers are sons of the free woman.

The Law says to cast out the bondwoman / slave woman and her son. Her son is not an heir with Isaac.

Now ask how the cross-references help to understand this part of Galatians 4.

Genesis 16

It was Abraham's wife's idea for him to have a son by her Egyptian maid Hagar. She suggested it as a solution for Abraham's being childless, to give him an heir.

Ishmael was born as a result, and God promised to multiply descendants / offspring.

Genesis 17:11-27

God established circumcision as the sign of His covenant with Abraham and his descendants / offspring. He promised that Sarai would have a son and they were to name him Isaac.

God's covenant was passed on to Isaac, not Ishmael.

Genesis 21:8-13

Sarah saw Hagar's son mocking her son Isaac (ESV—laughing). So she told Abraham to drive / cast out the maid and her son, for he was not to be an heir with Isaac.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The new covenant is different from both the Abrahamic Covenant and the old covenant. It's not like the old covenant of the Law, which Israel broke.

God's law will be written on hearts for those who are part of the new covenant. They will be His people and He their God. They will all know Him. He will forgive their iniquities and not remember their sin.

Luke 22:14-20

Jesus' blood is the blood of the new covenant. His death and resurrection brought forgiveness for all who believe in the gospel about Him.

Believers are part of the new covenant—salvation.

Hebrews 7:18-22; 8:7-13 and 10:11-14

The Law made nothing perfect, so Jesus brought a better covenant. Hebrews 8 quotes the passage from Jeremiah 31.

Although the new covenant is fulfilled in Jesus for believers, the total fulfillment is not until all Israel is part of it. Until all Israel knows Him.

In Him all are perfected.

Acts 6:3-7:1, 51-60

Stephen, a believing Jew in Jerusalem, was persecuted by other Jews. They were described as uncircumcised in heart and resisting the Holy Spirit. Stephen was killed by these men, one of whom was Saul (Paul).

Relate these events to Galatians 4:29.

They received the Law, but didn't keep it.

What did the Law say?

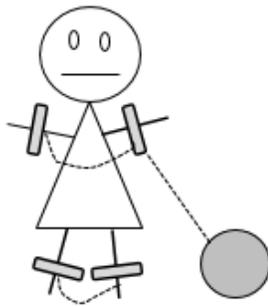
Cast out the bondwoman / slave woman and her son.

Galatians 5:1 says Christ sets free.

Stand firm in that freedom and don't be a slave again.

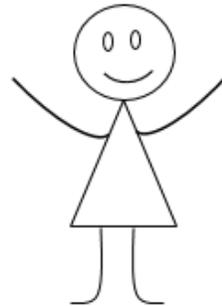
Now, ask your group if they are standing firm in their freedom. How do they know? Or have they gone back to living under some kind of law?

Are they truly part of the new covenant? Do they have the Holy Spirit leading them? Is He testifying to them that they belong to Christ?



Old

2 Covenants



New

Hagar
Mt. Sinai—Law
present Jerusalem
son of flesh

free
Jerusalem above
son of promise—Isaac

**GALATIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6**

Lesson emphasis:
Galatians 5

REVIEW

To begin your discussion, ask the group what they remember about Galatians 1–4. What did Paul write in this letter before chapter 5? What led up to this chapter? If they need help remembering, direct them to their Galatians at a Glance chart.

Paul was amazed / astonished that the Galatians were quickly deserting Him who called by grace. Some people had distorted the gospel and disturbed / troubled the Galatians with their teaching and influence. Paul wrote this letter to correct the problem.

In Galatians 1 and part of 2 the gospel is the main subject.

Then at the end of 2 the subject changes to emphasize justification (being made or declared righteous) by faith, not by keeping the Law. This continues into chapter 3.

The Spirit is introduced in chapter 3 and also mentioned in 4.

Abraham is the example of righteousness by faith.

A contrast between slavery or bondage to the Law and the freedom of the new covenant is the main content of chapter 4. The Law says to cast out the bondwoman (slave woman) and her son.

There is a visual aid at the end of this lesson's guide that you might use, adding to it as you discuss the lesson.

GALATIANS 5

Now ask what this chapter is about. You might ask what your group noted as a possible theme on their At a Glance chart.

Circumcision means nothing. Love fulfills the Law. Walk by the Spirit.

Verses 1-6

How does the contrast between liberty and bondage continue?

Christ set believers free from any kind of bondage / slavery, and Paul called believers to stand firm instead of returning to slavery.

Paul brought up circumcision again in connection with the Law and bondage / slavery.

It does no good unless one keeps the whole Law, which no one does. So it's of no benefit.

Verse 4 uses strong language—severed from Christ, fallen from grace.

What does this mean, according to the immediate context and the rest of Galatians?

This does not mean that a believer can lose his or her salvation.
Paul said this about those who were seeking to be justified by law.

Paul made the point several times since Galatians 2 that no one is justified by works of the law. Only faith in Christ leads to justification. Anyone who chooses to go back under law permanently has never been saved.

Galatians 1 says God calls believers by the grace of Christ. And they live by that grace. Living by law is the opposite of living by grace.

He continued in verses 5-6 saying that the hope of righteousness is through the Spirit by faith. Faith working through love.

As with previous discussions, you have opportunity to ask your group about how they live their Christianity. Are they more bound or free? How do they know? Do they feel their Christianity is burdensome?

Verses 7-12

What does Paul go back to before continuing about love?

The Galatians were running well, obeying the truth; but then someone hindered them.
Leaven indicates something spreading, spreading among the Galatians.

Despite that, Paul said he was confident they would not adopt another view.

And the one disturbing / troubling them would be judged. Verse 12 makes a strong statement about them. Those teaching circumcision—Paul wished they would mutilate (ESV—emasculate) themselves; a just judgment / penalty.

In verse 11 Paul asked another question to get the Galatians to think.
He was persecuted for what he taught. Relate this to Galatians 4:29.

Those of the law persecute those who teach righteousness by faith and grace, resulting in freedom. The cross is the stumbling block / offense.

Now ask your group how any of this relates to them, to Christianity today. Is there a modern parallel in the church for circumcision to the Jews? Who is justified by it? Does anyone preach salvation by baptism? Give time for them to discuss.

Verses 13-15

How does love connect with freedom?

Faith works through love, verse 6
Love serves one another, verse 13
Love fulfills the Law, verse 14

Freedom gives opportunity for believers to serve each other in love, not focusing all energy on keeping a law.

Leviticus 19:17-18

Love your neighbor as yourself is part of the Law God gave to Israel.

Matthew 22:34-40

Jesus taught that love for God and others is the basis for the whole Law and the Prophets (the Old Testament).

John 13:34-35

Jesus gave a new commandment—to love one another as He loved. He laid down His life for those He loved. Loving one another is the evidence of being His disciple.

1 John 4:7-12, 19

God is love, and love is from Him. His love is perfected in believers as they love one another. Those who don't love are not from God. We love because He first loved us.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Loving others is part of the Law, but can only be accomplished by the Spirit.

Is love still the evidence of being Jesus' disciple? How is it shown in church now? Are true believers still to serve one another in love? Give your group time to discuss this application.

What is the contrast in verses 14-15, and how does it relate to what was going on in the Galatian churches?

Serving one another in love is contrasted with biting and devouring one another. It's possible that legalism led to biting and devouring those in the church who were not living by the law.

Verses 16-26

Who and what are emphasized in the rest of the chapter?

The Spirit contrasted with the flesh

Tell your group to look at the chart in the lesson on Day Three. Then ask what they learned about this contrast in studying Days Four and Five. Be sure to discuss application as it comes up.

The flesh and Spirit are against one another.
The one led by the Spirit is not under the Law.

Romans 8:1-9

The Spirit of life sets free from the law of sin and death, which Jesus condemned.
The Law is fulfilled in those who walk according to the Spirit.

A believer's mind is set on the things of the Spirit, not the flesh, resulting in life and peace.

The mind set on the flesh is hostile to God and is not able to subject itself to His law. There is no pleasing God for those in the flesh.

The Spirit of God dwells in those who are His. If one does not have Christ's Spirit, that one doesn't belong to Him.

Ask your group what they learned about the deeds of the flesh. Go over the list in verses 19-21. Discuss cross-references also.

Paul gave a warning at the end of this list in verse 21. Whoever practices / does these things will not inherit God's kingdom. He is not a true son of God—whether Jew or Gentile.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and Ephesians 5:3-10

These passages have similar lists to Galatians 5. And they repeat that those who practice these things have no inheritance in God's kingdom—they are not saved.

The warning to believers is—don't be deceived.

Now ask what they learned about the list in verses 22-23. Give time for your group to discuss each trait in the list.

The contrast with the deeds of the flesh is the fruit of the Spirit.
And love is first in this list ending with self-control.
There is no law against these.

Who can live like this?

The character traits of the Holy Spirit belong to those who are His.
Believers have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

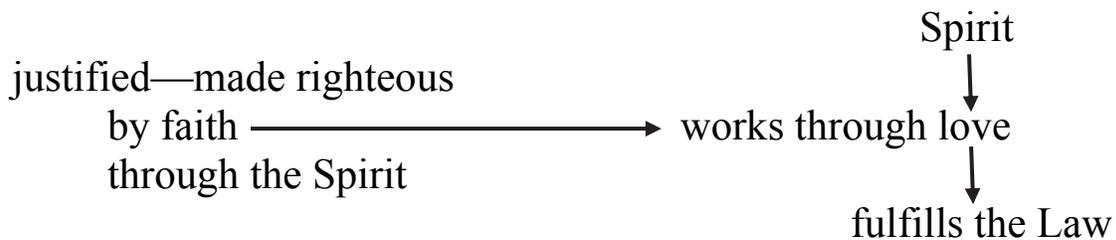
Since believers have life by the Spirit, Paul says to also walk by / keep in step with the Spirit.

“Walk” means “to proceed in a row as the march of a soldier”³; “to live, to behave in accordance with.”⁴

Verse 26 is a warning as well as an instruction. These things are opposite to walking by / keeping in step with the Spirit.

You can end this discussion by asking your group which side of the list describes the practice of their lives—The Flesh or The Spirit?

You might also ask how true believers fulfill the Law by walking in the Spirit.



³James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995). G4748.

⁴Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 504.

**GALATIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7**

Lesson emphasis:
Galatians 6

To begin this last discussion, you might ask your group how the message of Galatians has helped them with their life. Give time for them to share.

NOTE: You can review the flow of thought in Galatians at the beginning of your discussion or at the end as a wrap-up.

REVIEW

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and what they did on Day Five. Then ask how they might explain the flow of thought in Galatians to someone.

Paul was amazed / astonished that the Galatians were quickly deserting Him who called by grace. Some people had distorted the gospel and disturbed / troubled the Galatians with their teaching and influence. Paul wrote this letter to correct the problem.

In Galatians 1 and part of 2 the gospel is the main subject.

Then close to the end of 2 the subject changes to emphasize justification, being made or declared righteous by faith, not by keeping the Law. This continues into chapter 3.

Abraham is the example of righteousness by faith.

A contrast between slavery or bondage to the Law and the freedom of the new covenant is the main content of chapter 4.

Galatians 5 says circumcision means nothing. Love fulfills the Law. Walk by the Spirit. And it seems that chapter 6 explains how.

GALATIANS 6

Verses 1-5

How does Galatians 6 continue from Galatians 5?

Verses 13-15 of chapter 5 told the Galatians how they should serve one another in love.

Then verses 16-25 contrast the flesh's deeds and the Spirit's fruit. The instruction is to walk by / keep in step with the Spirit because believers live by the Spirit.

Verse 26 goes back to living with one another—other believers. Believers aren't to boast / become conceited, as in boasting about keeping the Law or circumcision. Challenging / provoking and envying one another are part of this.

Galatians 6:1 begins with the opposite of boasting / conceit, challenging / provoking and envying. Believers are to restore with gentleness—part of the Spirit's fruit in true Christians— brothers who sin.

restore—“*put in order, restore to a former condition, mend, repair*”⁵

Verse 1 also gives a caution about being tempted in the midst of restoring.

Ask your group if they've had to restore a brother or sister. What was the motivation? How might believers be tempted as they try to restore?

What instruction is next in Galatians 6? Also discuss the cross-references.

Bear one another's burdens, a heavy load. Paul told the Galatians to help each other. Compare this with Galatians 5:13-14. Love fulfills the Law.

Bearing one another's burdens fulfills the law of Christ.

John 13:34-35

Jesus gave a new commandment—to love one another as He had loved. He laid down His life as a demonstration of His love.

1 John 5:1-3

Loving God and keeping His commandments are connected. Obedience to Him shows love for Him.

James 2:8-12

Fulfill the royal law by loving your neighbor as yourself. To be judged by the law of liberty, not the Law.

Believers are to be serving one another from love, not focusing on self. Each believer is to bear his own load, personal responsibility, but sometimes believers need help from one another.

How do verses 2-5 work out in the church today? Give time for your group to discuss this.

⁵Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament library (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000). 221.

Verses 6-10

What is the first instruction in these verses? Discuss cross-references also.

Share all good things with the one who teaches the word.

Share is the transliteration *koinoneo* which can mean “to come into communion or fellowship with, to become a sharer, be made a partner.”⁶; “to share one’s possessions, with the implication of some kind of joint participation and mutual interest.”⁷

1 Corinthians 9:7-14

Share material things with those who give or teach spiritual things. Apostles had the right to be cared for by those they taught and ministered to. But Paul didn’t use this right many times.

Philippians 4:10-19

Paul commended the Philippian church for sharing to meet his needs on more than one occasion.

Ask your group how they see this sharing in the church now. Give time for them to discuss what they think about this from their study.

How do verses 7-10 relate to the previous verses of Galatians 6 and also to the whole letter?

The warning for believers is—don’t be deceived, God is not mocked.
Whatever a man sows, he will reap.
Sow to the flesh and reap corruption
contrasted with
sow to the Spirit and reap eternal life.

Relate this to other uses of the flesh contrasted with the Spirit in Galatians, especially 5:13-24. The flesh tries to keep the Law, but only serves self. The end result is corruption or as 5:21 says, no inheritance in the kingdom of God.

Those who walk by the Spirit fulfill the Law by loving one another. And the result is eternal life.

Verses 9 and 10 are encouragement to continue, seize opportunity for good, and don’t grow weary—the time to reap is future. This doing good is toward all people, especially believers, those of the household of faith.

⁶James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2001). G2841.

⁷Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 568.

Ask what your group learned about this from the cross-references.

Acts 2:44-45 and 4:32-37

At the beginning of the church, believers sold what they had to share with other believers who were in need.

James 2:14-17

Faith produces works, a specific one is to give so brothers can eat and have clothes.

Romans 12:10-21

Paul gave instructions for believers concerning fellow believers, as well as all men. One instruction is to contribute to the needs of the saints.

How do these commands, warnings, and encouragements relate to the church now? How does one keep from becoming weary? Relate this to Galatians 2:20 and walking by the Spirit in Galatians 5.

Verses 11-18

How did Paul end this letter of correction? Discuss cross-references also.

Verse 11 authenticates that it is from him.

Verses 12-13 go back to his main point of warning against those who are sowing to the flesh in teaching circumcision.

They do it so they won't be persecuted for teaching the cross.

But they don't even keep the Law, they only want to boast about having followers.

The contrast is in verse 14. Paul only boasted in the cross and it brought persecution.

There is also a contrast in verse 15; circumcision means nothing, but a new creation does. Relate to Galatians 2:20 and 5:6.

1 John 2:15-17

The things of the world are passing away.

Philippians 3:2-11

This is another contrast of the false circumcision (ESV—those who mutilate the flesh) and those who worship in God's Spirit. Paul knew what he wrote about because he had been one who put confidence in the flesh before he became a new creature in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 and Romans 8:11-17

All believers are new creatures because of God's Spirit dwelling within. His Spirit leads His children.

Those walking by or following this rule, not circumcision or the Law, have peace and mercy. “Those who walk by this rule” refers to the church.

“The Israel of God” refers to those Jews who are or will be saved, Romans 9:1-8.

Now ask your group what they learned about Paul’s “brand-marks of Jesus” and how it relates to them. Discuss the cross-references also.

“Brand-marks / marks is *stigma*; “slaves and soldiers bore the name or the stamp of their master or commander branded or pricked (cut) into their bodies to indicate what master or general they belonged to.”⁸

Acts 14:1-22

Persecution followed Paul as he went from place to place in Galatia giving the gospel. People were saved, but others stirred up persecution. Paul may have had brand-marks from being stoned, verse 19.

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Paul was constantly being delivered / given over to death, but Jesus’ life was manifested in his body as he demonstrated his love toward others in serving them.

2 Corinthians 11:23-30

This gives a list of what Paul endured to give the gospel to many.

Paul had marks on his physical body. He had been stoned, beaten, shipwrecked, etc. because of taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who had not heard it.

Contrast Paul with those in Galatians 6:12. He didn’t try to avoid persecution by compromising and adding to the gospel like the distorters who tried to make themselves look good and avoid persecution by compelling the Galatians to be circumcised.

Paul persevered in the persecution so others would have eternal life. Many do the same now, and have since Paul’s time.

Having new life in Christ brings with it persecution for presenting the gospel about the cross and resurrection of Jesus.

How did Paul end Galatians, and why?

Grace to the Galatians

They needed to stop turning away from it.

⁸James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2001). G4742.

Ask the group if they saw any segment divisions for Galatians.

The following are two possibilities:

Chapters 1-2 primarily historical about Paul

Chapters 3-5 doctrine pertinent to Paul's purpose for writing:
to correct wrong teaching about salvation and how believers are to live.

5:25—6:18 instructions

Chapters 1-2 Paul's apostleship and defense of the gospel

Chapters 3-4 Justification by grace apart from the Law

Chapters 5-6 Freedom and life in the Spirit

To end your discussion, you might ask your group how studying this letter has encouraged, corrected, instructed, etc. them in their walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.