

Galatians: “No Other Gospel Meeting Guide

Note: Questions were either taken from or adapted from “No Other Gospel, The Book of Galatians” study guide from Citadel Square Church.

Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

Read Scripture

Read Galatians 1:1-10 together.

Bible Study

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God’s Word together.

Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all of your life.

Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives as pilgrims traveling to our true home.

Galatians 1:1-10 (ESV)

"Paul, an apostle--not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead-- ²and all the brothers who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different Gospel-- ⁷not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the Gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

¹⁰For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ."

Open: What comes to your mind when you think of “beginnings” and why?

Study:

- 1) Take some time to read Paul's greetings in Ephesians, Philippians, and 1 Corinthians to compare it to Paul's greeting in Galatians. What does Paul leave out in his greeting to the Galatians? What does this reveal about Paul's tone towards the Galatians?
- 2) Where does Paul's authority come from? Why is this important? Why did Paul need to take the time to remind them where his authority comes from?
- 3) In Galatians 1:3-5, Paul provides a brief summary of the gospel. According to this summary, who is the One that is active? What are the results of these actions?
- 4) Paul ends Galatians 1:3-5 by referring to the glory of God. How does Paul's description of the gospel in the previous verses result in God being glorified? How does a distortion of this message become an attack on God's glory?
- 5) Read Acts 15:1-21. At the Jerusalem council, the leaders of the early church come together to decide on the nature of the Jewish ceremonial law. What parts of the law do they settle on as needed for all Christians to follow? Why were these chosen? How does this inform the book of Galatians?
- 6) Why do you think it was so tempting for these young Christians to follow the false teachers who told them they needed to follow the ceremonial law?
- 7) Why does Paul defend himself against accusations of pleasing man?

Apply:

- 8) Paul is writing to a group of Christians that are tempted to believe that their salvation is based on their works. What are some ways that you fall into a legalistic (performance-based) mindset in relation to your salvation?
- 9) What are some ways that we are tempted to modify (to add to or take away) from the Word of God in order to make it less authoritative and more "attractive"?
- 10) What are some false gospels that we believe today? What things do we think we must add to the gospel in order to be right with God?
- 11) Since our salvation is the work of God from start to finish, how does this inform the ways we share the gospel with others? (Think of Believer and Unbelievers alike)

PRAY:

- Take some time thanking God that your salvation is a gift based on His work and not your own.
- Ask God for insight where you are adding anything to the gospel or are tempted to add anything to the gospel.
- Take time to pray for the members of our church to really believe, love, and protect the gospel of grace.

Galatians: “No Other Gospel Meeting Guide

Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

Read Scripture

Read Galatians 1:11-24 together.

Bible Study

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God’s Word together.

Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all of your life.

Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives as pilgrims traveling to our true home.

Galatians 1:11-24 (ESV)

“For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man’s gospel. ¹²For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

¹⁸Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord’s brother. ²⁰(In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) ²¹Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²²And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³They only were hearing it said, ‘He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.’ ²⁴And they glorified God because of me.”

Open: When you think of your personal testimony, what details about your conversion stick out? Why?

Study:

- 1) Take some time to read Paul's conversion in Acts 9:1-19. How did Paul come to know that the gospel that he proclaims? Why is the source of this information important to Paul's argument?
- 2) In verses 13-16 Paul gives insight into his religious background. How does Paul's prior commitment to the law and opposition to Jesus' compare to his new passion for the gospel? How are these two ways of life incompatible? What changes do you think took place in Paul's life as a result?
- 3) In verses 16-22 Paul provides an overview of the time following his conversion. Where did he go, and who did he spend time with? How would Paul's limited connection with other early church leaders strengthen his argument that the gospel he proclaims is not from man?

Apply:

- 4) Paul had a first-hand experience of Jesus. One temptation we may face is learning more from the experiences of others than our own relationship with Christ. How would you describe your relationship with Jesus and your pursuit of Him through prayer and studying the Scriptures?
- 5) Take some time to compare Galatians 1:15-16 to Romans 8:28-30. As you reflect on your own story of faith, identify specific instances where you see God was at work in your past. What circumstances did God use to make the truth of Christ clear to you? How would you currently describe God's purpose for your life?
- 6) Paul's conversion and commitment to share the gospel caused others to worship and give glory to God. How have you been encouraged by someone else's growth and transformation? How has this strengthened your faith in God?
- 7) Who could you share your story of faith with this week?

PRAY:

- Take some time thanking God for the ways he has worked in your life (even bringing you to faith in Christ).
- Ask God to continue to reveal Himself to you through His Word.
- Ask God to provide you with opportunities to proclaim the gospel with accuracy and power this week (to Believers and Unbelievers alike).