

Galatians Chapter 5:1-12

Meeting Guide

Note: Questions were either taken from or adapted from “No Other Gospel, The Book of Galatians” study guide from Citadel Square Church and *Galatians: The Gospel of Free Grace 13-Lesson Study* by Jon Nielsen and Philip Graham Ryken

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 5:1-12 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.

Galatians 5:1-12 (ESV)

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

² *Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you.*

³ *I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.*

⁴ *You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.*

⁶ *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.*

⁷ *You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸This persuasion is not from him who calls you. ⁹A little leaven leavens the whole lump. ¹⁰I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. ¹¹But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. ¹²I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!”*

Open: Why does a child obey his or her parents? In what ways can this play into our relationship with God?

Study:

- 1) Take time to note the repeated words and phrases in this section of Scripture. How often does Paul mention circumcision? Why does he do so and how is this related to a lack of freedom?
- 2) What has Christ done for us in vs. 1? What should be our response to this? What was the danger for these new Believers? (consider what is the yoke of slavery)
- 3) What two different groups of people does Paul deal with in Galatians 5:1-12? How would you describe his attitude and tone toward them? Why might this be?
- 4) What are the real expressions of real saving faith—and what aren't (vs. 5-6)?
- 5) Accepting circumcision doesn't count for anything. So why is Paul so strongly against those that required it? What was the danger of putting this requirement on equal level with the gospel? (see Galatians 5:9)
- 6) Paul stated that the Galatians started "running well" but were hindered from "obeying the truth" by putting confidence in their circumcision. How can you determine the difference between legalistic living and "running well" and "obeying the truth"?
- 7) What does Paul say will become of the Judaizers and their message (5:10)? What does Paul affirm about his own ministry and message, and the consistent focus of his teaching and preaching? Why is the cross offensive, and why must that be the main thing that offends as the gospel is preached (vs. 11)? What should we think of Paul's intense and graphic exclamation in vs. 12?

Apply:

- 8) Paul's harsh language toward the false teachers shows us the seriousness of misleading other believers. How should this attitude affect the way you lead or disciple others?
- 9) Most likely, you are not being tempted daily to live according to all of the regulations of the Old Testament law! But how might you be drawn toward an "earning favor" mentality in your walk with God? In what ways do you feel most prone to wander away from the freedom that God has given you through faith in Jesus, into a soul-destroying legalism instead?

PRAY:

- Take time thank God for the freedom and hope that He has given us in the gospel!
- Ask God to reveal anything that is keeping you from walking in faith-filled freedom.
- Ask God for opportunities and courage to share the amazingly good news of the cross, even if it brings offense and contempt your way.