



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part 4: From Not For

Icbreaker: Describe the last time you were considered “foolish” or thought of someone else as “foolish.” What were the dynamics at play in that situation?

1. In Galatians 3:1, Paul asks, “Who has bewitched (*deceived, duped*) you?” How can we guard against being swayed by false teaching or external influences in our faith today? Can you identify some ways where maybe you had been led astray one way or another in the past?

2. Examine the following summary of Galatians:

PASSAGE	Galatians 1-2	Galatians 3-4	Galatians 5-6
THEME	Biographical	Doctrinal	Practical
PLOT	The message of the Apostles	The limits of the law	The power of the Holy Spirit
MAIN POINT	The Gospel is true	The Gospel is superior	The Gospel liberates

How can understanding the themes (*biographical, doctrinal, practical*) & structure help us understand and apply the message of Galatians to our lives today?

3. Spend some time reading Galatians 3 aloud together as a group. What are some of things that stand out to you the most? What are some areas of your own life where you tend to rely more on your own works and efforts rather than trusting in God’s grace and faithfulness?

4. The message emphasized the importance of living FROM a place of love and acceptance, not FOR it. How can we practically shift our mindset from trying to earn God’s graces to living them out of the love and acceptance we already have through Christ?

5. Read and discuss the following quote from Dr. Richard Lovelace (*Dynamics of Spiritual Life*):

In [most Christians] day-to-day existence they rely on their sanctification for justification... drawing their assurance of acceptance with God from their sincerity, their past experience of conversion, their recent religious performance or the relative infrequency of their conscious, willful disobedience... They cling desperately to legal, pharisaical righteousness, but envy, jealousy and other branches on the tree of sin grow out of this fundamental insecurity.

Where do you see some of the dynamics above in your own life today?

6. How is Galatians 3 (*and not only the more “obvious” passages like Psalm 122 and Genesis accounts of Isaac & Ishmael*) relevant to the current events of the Middle East? Or another way to think through this question of relevancy – How does the biographical element of Mosab Hassan Yousef’s wildly unlikely conversion to Christianity and the truth of Galatians 1:23-24; 3:26-29 resonate? What is the practical lesson or reminder we receive from this intersection of ancient text and modern day events?

○ Lord, you spoke “Peace, be still” to the storm and it was stilled. We ask for the same miracle today in Israel & Gaza. You, alone, are our hope. We lift our prayers and cries to you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

