

## **Small Group Discussion Questions - Spring Semester // Week Nine**

*Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.*

### **Optional Ice Breaker(s)**

- 1) As you begin to make summer plans, what are you most excited for this summer? What are a few plans, vacations, activities, etc. that you are excited for?
- 2) When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up? What are a few dreams that you had for your life when you were a child?

### **Passage and Discussion**

#### ***Read Galatians 4:21-31***

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage? What is a theme, verse, or word that you find encouraging? What do you find challenging in this passage?
- b) Why do you think that Paul uses the example of Abraham's sons to teach us the difference between depending on our own work and depending on God's promise? How would you explain this difference in your own words?
- c) In verse 21, Paul directly addresses a group of people "who desire to be under the law." Why do you think that these people desired to "be under the law"? How do you see this desire expressed in the Church today?

#### ***Read Galatians 5:1-15***

- d) How do you think the average person in our society today would describe 'freedom'? How is this freedom different from the freedom that we have in Christ?
- e) In verse 1, Paul affirms: Since 'Christ has set us free,' we must 'stand fast' in freedom and not 'submit again to a yoke of slavery'. Why do you think someone would need to be reminded to stay free? Why do you think that we sometimes 'submit' ourselves again to a 'yoke of slavery'?
- f) On Sunday, Cam reminded us that there are two 'ditches' on the sides of the road when it comes to freedom. The first 'ditch' is legalism: when we add rules to try and earn our salvation. Have you struggled with this before in your own life? How do you think we can avoid legalism and walk in the freedom that Christ brings us?

- g) Without naming specific people or churches, what are a few examples of legalism that you see in the Church today? How can we work together as a Church body to help each other walk in freedom?
- h) The other 'ditch' that Cam described is using our freedom as a license to sin. Have you ever struggled with this in your own life? How can we use the freedom that Christ brings us to make sure that we are pursuing righteousness?
- i) What does it mean to you to 'pursue Christ'? What are a few practical ways that you can do this in your everyday life?
- j) In this passage, we are also commanded to use our freedom to "serve one another humbly in love". Why do you think it's important for us to use our freedom to love one another? What are a few practical ways that you can serve other people in our church this week?
- k) Finally, Paul reminds us that we are meant to use our freedom to be unified as a church. How can you use your freedom to help our church continue to grow in unity?
- l) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

### **Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)**

- a) This week, re-read Galatians 5:1-15. Ask God to speak to you through His Word, and to show you if you are struggling with either of the 'ditches on the side of the road' (legalism/living in sin). Ask Him to help you walk in the true freedom of Christ.
- b) This week, consider the ways in which you are 'pursuing Christ' in your everyday life. Schedule a time each day to spend with Him (reading the Bible, praying, etc.), so that you can use the freedom you have to walk closely with Him.

### **Optional Ideas for Prayer Time**

- a) In this season, it is important for us to be intentionally praying for each other. This also means that we must each choose to be honest and vulnerable with our prayer requests. Take time to 'check-in' about how each person is doing, and pray for them.
- b) As a group, pray for our church leadership as we look forward to the fall - pray that God would lead them as they make plans for the future. Pray that God would continue to work in and through our church community.