

First Things First: Galatians

Grace and Freedom

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

“12 “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything.

13 “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.” - 1 Corinthians 6:12-13 (ESV)

“But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.” - 1 Corinthians 9:27 (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. 5 For 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? 8 This persuasion is not from him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I 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. 11 But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. 12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!” - Galatians 5:1-12

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Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)

- Do the best things in life really come free?
- Are you a rule follower or a free spirit?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- Read Galatians 4:21-31. In order to check understanding, summarize the point of this section in your own words.
- Read Galatians 5:1-12. When Paul says that we are called to be free, what is he saying we need to be free from?
- Legalism is when we make up rules to save us or we judge *others* by our own man-made rules.
- Read Galatians 5:1-12. What is the “offense of the cross” in v.12?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- While legalism is false teaching, is it wrong to have some rules that are wise *for you* to keep? Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-13.
- Paul makes the point that trying to earn God’s favor through obedience to the law is like volunteering for enslavement. What are some ways you believe you can earn God’s favor?
- Giving rules to our children is wise as they grow. However, what is the hope as they mature and eventually move out of our home?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)

- Paul maintains that how these Galatian believers handle the one choice of circumcision actually shows where their hearts are at. Yet, so do the little daily choices we make to pick up a bible, spend time in prayer, or share Jesus with a neighbor. Some of the most powerful examples of using Christian freedom involve setting routines and personal discipline to become a high-impact person for Jesus. What habits might God be calling you to embrace?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)

1. What’s a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
2. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
3. How’s your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (*3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection*)
4. Who is one non-believer that you need to reach out to this week?
5. What’s something you’d like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.