# First Things First: Galatians *Grace Alone*



#### **Key Scripture**

"Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— 2 and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. 6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But 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. 9 As 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. 10 For 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." – Galatians 1:1-10 (ESV)

"8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." – Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)

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

- What's a purchase where you went the cheap route to save money and regretted it?
- Have you ever compromised your values to keep the peace?
- What's the difference between minutiae and an important detail?

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

- Read Galatians 1:1-10. What is the issue that Paul is addressing?
- Read Galatians 1:6-9. How would you define the Gospel, and explain why there's only one?

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

- How can we recognize false doctrine from the good stuff?
- Some systems teach that God graciously infuses us with the ability to earn His forgiveness through obedience. How is this different from the grace taught in Galatians 1:3/6 and Ephesians 2:8-10?
- When we are tempted to doubt that we're worthy of God's forgiveness, how are we both right and wrong at the same time?

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

- How can you incorporate grace into your prayer life? Here is a suggested prayer: "There is nothing I have done that could make you love me less, and nothing I could do that would make you love me more."
- Think: Is there an area of your life in which you've compromised your Biblical values? What can you do to change that?
- Identify an area of Christian doctrine in which you're weak and set aside 30 minutes to researching and learning about it.

## 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.

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