

¹⁹ Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. God gave his law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people. ²⁰ Now a mediator is helpful if more than one party must reach an agreement. But God, who is one, did not use a mediator when he gave his promise to Abraham.

²¹ Is there a conflict, then, between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it. ²² But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.

²³ Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed.

²⁴ Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. ²⁵ And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian.

²⁶ For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.

— *Galatians 3:19-29*

Discussion/Journal Questions

As you begin your time together, share one blessing you have received so far in 2026.

Have two or three people read Galatians 3:19-29 out loud slowly. After some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

Why was the Law given? What is the purpose behind God's commands? In the sermon, John gives three metaphors to understand how Paul answers this question in Galatians. What were they?

Do these metaphors help you understand God's heart behind the Law? Which one resonates with you the most?

Read Galatians 3:24-25 again. What does it mean for a child to have a guardian? Why do most adults not need guardians anymore? How does this apply to Christians and the Law?

What two questions does John give us for discerning how a command or Law in scripture applies to us?

What remaining questions do you have on this topic?

How can your group pray for you this week?