

**Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series:
Breaking Fake – October 23, 2022**



*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The Bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22)." **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

DISCUSSION STARTER

Ask the people in your group to think back on their life and share 3 promises from Scripture that they have experienced God fulfilling. Spend some time in prayer to thank Him for each of these and for all the promises He has kept on your behalf.

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Galatians 4:21-23. Say, "To help the Galatians to see (even more) clearly what it means to be "under the law", Paul goes back to the Old Testament, this time to the story of Sarah and Hagar (see Genesis 16, 21). Paul tells the Galatians that the story is not only literally true, but also symbolically shows us two different ways of living – one is the way of the slave, Hagar, and one is the way of freedom, Sarah." Ask, "Which son of Abraham represents the works of the flesh, and which son represents the promise of God?" Ask, "What are some of the differences between the works of the flesh, and the work of the Spirit; and how does legalism lead to slavery, and bondage?" Finally, discuss what pushes us to attempt to do something in the flesh, when it can only be accomplished through the Holy Spirit?

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Galatians 4:24-29. Say, "Paul tells us that Hagar is the symbol of human effort to gain what God has already promised. When the promised son was slow in coming, Sarah decided to have Abraham sleep with her slave, Hagar and have an heir through her. This was not uncommon in the ancient world, but it was a clear display of a lack of trust in God's promise. For this reason, Paul tells the Galatians that if they persist in their efforts to earn their salvation through their good works, then they will become slaves, like Hagar. Conversely, when they trust in the gospel's promise (that they are saved by grace and not by their works), they show themselves to be free children of God." Ask, "Why do you think it is that there are more people trying to earn their way to heaven than those who are of the promise of salvation through faith in Jesus?"

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Galatians 4:30-31. Ask, "Are you children of the slave woman or of the free?" Say, "So since you are free, what should you do?" Have your group members write down at least one practical way they can obey what they have learned in this passage in the coming week and then discuss them with one another.

DOING THE WORD

As you close, take some time to thank God that we are not bound by the covenant Moses brought down from Mount Sinai, but instead, we have been set free by the truth Jesus (the promised 'seed'), brought down from heaven (John 1:12-14,16-17). Ask, "How can we this week help those who attempt to work their way to heaven through legalism, instead, live by faith and be empowered to live a victorious, Christian life?"