

**Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series:
Breaking Fake – October 30, 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 your group, "Do you like games with challenging instructions and rules, or games with simple instructions and few rules? Why?"

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Galatians 5:1. Ask, "What has Christ set us free from? Say, "We are free of the power of sin and death. And we are free from the burdens of trying to follow a set of rules in order to please God. A free person doesn't want to go back to be a slave, does he? A healthy person doesn't want to go back to being sick. Going back to the law is to go back to the rules of the old covenant and reject the grace offered by Christ in the new covenant. That would mean once again taking responsibility for our own sins and not relying on Christ's death on the cross to take them away."

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Galatians 5:2-4. Ask, "In what ways were you like a slave prior to coming to Christ? How is your life different now?" Ask, "What is the relationship between circumcision and the law?" Say, "Paul is arguing against relying on the law. When we embrace the law as our rule of walking with God, we must let go of Jesus. He is no longer our righteousness; we attempt to earn it ourselves. For the Galatians in this context, to receive circumcision — the ritual that testified that a Gentile was coming under the law — meant that he no longer trusted in Jesus as His righteousness but trusted in himself instead. So, Paul could say "**Christ will be of no value to you at all.**"

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Galatians 5:5-6. Ask, "What key word besides "grace" is mentioned in verses 5 and 6?" Ask, "How do faith and grace work together?" Ask, "What works besides circumcision might a person depend on today for salvation?" Say, "Paul makes it clear circumcision does not save. Neither does refusing to be circumcised. The only thing that saves is faith. This is working in love because God loves us and we are responding to His love."

DOING THE WORD

Take some time to reflect and to be mindful of your own motivations. Ask, "Why do you go to church on Sunday? Is it because it is Sunday? Is it because people will be watching and notice if you aren't there?" Starting this Sunday and every Sunday thereafter before going to church, **pray**. Ask God to help you worship Him in spirit and truth. Ask Him to enlighten you and open your eyes to sin. Ask Him to give you the strength to obey what you learn. Ask Him for opportunities to reach out. A simple prayer can help you have the right attitude before God. It was for freedom that Christ set us free – We are free of the power of sin and death. And we are free from the burdens of trying to follow a set of rules in order to please God. As you run your race for Christ today, free yourself of unnecessary rules and regulations that hinder your progress. Close by thanking God for the freedom we have in Christ Jesus.