

**Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church**  
**Sermon Series: Breaking Fake – August 21, 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**

Have your group to share a time when they did something or embraced a belief without thinking it through (i.e., put something together without looking at instructions, say something about someone without thinking first, etc.). Ask, "Why is it important to think about a task before we start or consider a belief before we embrace it? What part do our emotions, our opinions, or the opinions of others play into this?"

### **DIGGING DEEPER 1**

**Read Galatians 3:1.** Ask, "Why did Paul call the Galatians 'foolish'?" The false teachers had bewitched them by questioning the very thing they knew. They had eyewitnesses who had observed Jesus being crucified, but instead of being convinced by the truth of the gospel, they were led astray. Discuss the power how false teaching gets our eyes off of Jesus and the cross and on to other matters that undermine the gospel. Discuss this quote by pastor: "When you are focused on God's truth, then you won't be deceived by people's opinions."

### **DIGGING DEEPER 2**

**Read Galatians 3:2-5.** Paul asks questions to make the Galatians think clearly about their experience of the gospel. Discuss how Paul's questions effectively point out the foolishness of believing that works will save or keep them saved since they were saved by faith alone. Ask, "Why does Paul distinguish between the 'means of the Spirit' versus the 'means of the flesh'?" Paul speaks of their experience of Christ in the Spirit as being in vain if now they believe that the Spirit worked by the law instead of the power of faith. Ask, "How do we lessen the work of the Spirit when we try to focus on greater performance rather than greater surrender by faith?"

### **DIGGING DEEPER 3**

**Read Galatians 3:6-9.** Paul goes back to the story of Abraham to underscore the importance of faith. The Jews identified Abraham as their father. Because of the law, circumcision was the sign of the covenant that they held zealously. But Paul reminds them that God's covenant with Abraham happened before circumcision. It was Abraham's faith that put him in a right relationship with God. Therefore, God shared the scope of His gospel plan to Abraham, and it included all the nations. Read Genesis 15:6 and 12:3. Ask, "How did Paul's letter correct the false teaching that real Christians also needed to be circumcised?" Discuss this statement: "Gentile Christians were children of Abraham and God through faith without distinction."

### **DOING THE WORD**

The Galatians were in danger of creating two classes of Christians – Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians. Ask, "How might we be tempted today to make distinctions among believers?" Discuss how the church has been guilty of creating distinctions with what clothes are worn at church, preferences of music and order, and even certain kinds of sins. **Reread Galatians 3:9.** We are blessed along with Abraham because we rely on faith just like Abraham. Ask, "Are you a man or woman of faith? What is Jesus calling you to do to be the person of faith that God is calling you to be? How is God calling you to make sure the gospel goes out to all kinds of people from every place and walk of life?"