

Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church
Sermon Series: Breaking Fake – October 16, 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 the participants in your group think of a time when a friendship grew cold. Ask, "What caused you to be good friends, and what happened to change the relationship? Was it an event or something said that changed things?" In our passage in Galatians, Paul's relationship with the Galatians had changed because false teachers had invaded the church and caused them to question the gospel as Paul had presented it to them.

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Galatians 4:15-16. Paul had not changed in his love for the Galatians. He was willing to tell them the truth even when it was not popular. Ask, "Has there been a time in your life where you had to speak the truth in love to someone even when it was difficult? How was it received?" We can be right in what we share but share it in the wrong way. Discuss the importance of how we speak truth to others.

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Galatians 4:17-18. The opponents of Paul wanted people to follow them and their Jewish traditions. Paul wanted the Galatians to be zealous out of their love for Jesus and the gospel. Ask, "How is it dangerous to be more zealous for those who lead us than for Jesus? What can we do to make sure that our passion is for Jesus and the gospel instead of those who lead us?" According to verse 18, Paul says there is nothing wrong with honoring those who lead us if it is for a good purpose and not as an excuse for spiritual laziness. Discuss someone in your life that inspires you to grow in your faith. Encourage your group to make a commitment to honor spiritual leaders by following their example not just when you are around them, but in every area of your life.

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Galatians 4:19-20. Paul uses the metaphor of a parent to a child to describe his relationship with the Galatians. A spiritual parent is one who leads a person to Christ and continues to train their spiritual children in the ways of following Jesus. Ask, "In what ways did Paul's labor reflect the agony of childbirth? Why did Paul feel like he was going through this agony again?" Discuss how children often learn something only to regress and go back to their old ways. Ask, "How do we do this at a spiritual level?"

DOING THE WORD

Read Philippians 2:13-14. In these two verses, Paul shares a formula for growing to spiritual maturity. We are to work out what God has worked in. Salvation is God's activity, but we are to be active in growing spiritually. Ask, "What are some practical ways we can 'work out our salvation with fear and trembling'?" **Read Ephesians 4:11-16.** Discuss how these verses relate to the message. Challenge your group to strive for spiritual growth in their own lives. Come up with a list of activities and habits that we should have in our lives to help us grow in our faith.