

Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church
Sermon Series: Breaking Fake – October 9, 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

Lead your group to share one thing that has changed significantly since they surrendered their life to Christ. **Read Galatians 4:8.** Ask, "What were some of the things that the Galatians were enslaved to before heard the gospel and believed? How do materialism and self-indulgence enslave our culture today?"

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Galatians 4:9-10. In verse 9, Paul confronted the Galatians with the truth that they had "turned back." Ask, "What did they turn back to?" Verse 10 mentions certain traditions from their former way of life. Ask, "Do you think this is a danger for the church today? How do we determine which traditions are biblical and which traditions are preference?" Sometimes we are tempted to make man-made traditions a new law among us. **Read 1 Corinthians 14:33.** Ask, "Based on this verse, what role should the resulting peace or confusion of our practices cause us to do?" The concern of Paul is that the Galatians returned to a works-based salvation, which Paul calls another gospel (see Galatians 1:6-7).

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Galatians 4:12. Ask, "What does Paul mean by asking them to 'become like him?'" Paul had been down the road of testing his present practice against past traditions. Paul concluded that one cannot be made right with God by works. Works do not save before a person has personal faith and works after personal faith cannot save. Only faith in the perfect person and finished work of Jesus can save a person from their sin.

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Galatians 4:12b-14. Paul's concern was not out of anger, but out of love as he acknowledges that they had not wronged him. Paul had shown them the love of God when he continued to minister to them as a messenger of God even when he was very sick. They treated Paul well during this difficult season. It is on this basis that Paul, lovingly confronts the distortion of the gospel that they were embracing. Ask, "How has God used someone in your life as His messenger of truth even when they had issues? Why do you think Paul brought this discussion to a relational level? What might have happened if Paul just demanded that they obey Him because of his role as an Apostle?"

DOING THE WORD

Paul could have allowed his circumstances to define how he ministered or shared the gospel. If Paul had not become ill, he would not have had the opportunity to be God's messenger to them with the same effect. Ask, "Has there ever been a time that you allowed your own personal issues and struggles keep you from ministering to others and sharing the gospel?" Lead your group in a discussion of how God, in His providential care, brings us into difficult seasons so we can better share Jesus with others. Close by challenging your group with these questions to consider: "How have you leveraged you issues to share the gospel? How will you leverage what you have experienced and what you are experiencing to share the gospel this week?"