



MANNA CHURCH HAWAI'I - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

April 26, 2026 | Galatians: Religion vs Relationship (pt3) - From Law to Life

ICEBREAKER QUESTION: Are you the type to read the instructions or just figure it out as you go? Are you more of a “try harder” person or a “go with the flow” person?

MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:

In Galatians 3:1-5, Paul doesn't hold back, he calls out the Galatians for starting their journey with Jesus by faith, but then trying to continue it through their own effort. They had already experienced salvation, the Holy Spirit, and real life change... yet somehow drifted into thinking growth now depended on them. Paul brings it back to the beginning: the same way you received new life, by faith, is the same way you continue to grow. You don't graduate from grace. What starts by faith must continue by faith.

Paul then points all the way back to Abraham in Galatians 3:6-9, showing that this has always been how God works. Abraham wasn't made right with God because of performance, but because he believed God. Faith has always been greater than effort. The law was never meant to save us, it was meant to show us our need for a Savior (Galatians 3:19-24). It reveals the gap, but it can't close it. Trying to earn righteousness through rules will only lead to frustration, because perfection is required, and only Jesus has ever lived that perfectly.

But here's the good news: Galatians 3:13-14 tells us that Jesus stepped in and did what we never could. He took the curse of sin on Himself so we could receive blessing, forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit. Because of Him, we're no longer trying to earn acceptance, we're living from it. And now, as Galatians 3:26 says, we're not just rule-followers... we're children of God. The shift is everything. It's no longer “I have to obey,” but “I want to obey” because my heart is being changed from the inside out. Grace doesn't remove transformation, it makes it possible.

GOING DEEPER: (break up into groups of no more than 4-6 for discussion)

1. What's one thing that stood out to you from the message or the summary?
2. Do you ever feel like you have to prove yourself or earn approval in life? How does that affect you?
3. Where in your life does your faith feel more like “I have to” instead of “I get to”? What might God be inviting you into?
4. Have you ever caught yourself trying to grow spiritually through your own effort instead of relying on God? How does knowing you are a *child of God* (Galatians 3:26) change the way you approach obedience and your relationship with Him? **Action Step:** This week, choose one area where you've been striving (trying to control or “earn” growth), and intentionally surrender it to God in prayer daily. What does it look like to trust Him instead-and who can you share this with for encouragement?

PRAYER: (break up into groups of 2-3 for prayer):

God, thank You that I don't have to earn Your love, you've already made a way through Jesus, help me trust You and walk by faith every day. Teach me to extend grace to others the way You've given it to me, choosing patience and love over pressure and performance. I pray my life shows what it looks like to live free in Your grace, so others can experience the hope and life found in You. Amen



MANNA CHURCH HAWAI'I - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

April 26, 2026 | Galatians: Religion vs Relationship (pt3) - From Law to Life

MANNA YOUTH DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER QUESTION: Are you the type to read the instructions or just figure it out as you go? Are you more of a “try harder” person or a “go with the flow” person?

MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:

In Galatians 3:1-5, Paul calls out something a lot of us can relate to. The Galatians started their journey with Jesus by trusting Him, but then they began to think they had to grow by trying harder on their own. They had already experienced God, real change, the Holy Spirit, new life, but they drifted into thinking it was now all up to them. Paul reminds them (and us): the same way you start with Jesus, by faith, is the same way you keep growing. You don't outgrow grace. It's not “God saves me, then I figure it out.” It's “God saves me, and I keep trusting Him every day.”

Think about your life as a student. It's easy to feel like everything depends on you, grades, sports performance, fitting in, making your family proud, or keeping up with friends. That same pressure can sneak into your relationship with God, making it feel like you have to “be better” or “try harder” to be close to Him. But Paul points back to Abraham (Galatians 3:6-9) to show that it's always been about faith, not performance. Rules can show us what's right and wrong, but they can't fix our hearts. Only Jesus can do that.

Here's the best part: Jesus already did what we could never do (Galatians 3:13-14). Because of Him, you don't have to earn God's love, you already have it. And Galatians 3:26 says you are a child of God. That changes everything. You're not just trying to follow rules, you're learning to live like someone who belongs to God. So instead of “I have to pray” or “I have to do the right thing,” it becomes “I get to know God” and “I want to follow Him.” Real change happens from the inside out, not from pressure, but from relationship.

GOING DEEPER: (break up into groups of no more than 4-6 for discussion)

1. Share one thing that stood out to you from the message or summary?
2. Do you ever feel like you have to prove yourself (at school, sports, or with friends)? How does that affect you?
3. Where does your faith sometimes feel like “I have to” instead of “I get to”?
4. Have you ever tried to grow in your faith by just trying harder instead of trusting God? What did that look like? **ACTION STEP:** This week, pick one area where you've been stressing or trying to control everything (school, friendships, sports, family). Take a moment each day to pray and give it to God. What would it look like to trust Him instead? Who can you share this with for encouragement?

PRAYER: (break up into groups of 2-3 for prayer):

God, thank You that we don't have to earn Your love, you've already given it to us through Jesus. Help us to stop trying to do everything on our own and instead trust You more in our everyday lives. Teach us to walk by faith at school, at home, and with our friends. Help us live like Your children, not out of pressure, but out of love. Use our lives to show others what it looks like to follow You with freedom and trust. Amen.

Referenced Scripture: Galatians 3

1. Where is 'Religion' holding me back?**2. How is 'Relationship' actively setting me free?**

Freedom = You being able to _____ what God has created you to do and to _____ who God has created you to be.

Human _____ alone will never bring Spiritual _____

Jesus got what we _____ so that we could get what only He _____!

How Grace Works

Keeps your **Devotion** on **Jesus**

Changes the *motivations* of your heart

Titus 2:11-12 (NIV) *For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.*

Salvation isn't our _____ for obedience; salvation is our _____ for obedience.

Discussion Guide/Going Deeper



Growth Track



Serve Saturday

