



## MANNA CHURCH HAWAII - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

April 19, 2026 | Galatians: Religion vs Relationship (pt2) - "Just Sinner" vs. "Just a Sinner"

**ICEBREAKER QUESTION:** What's something you really wanted to be good at, but just couldn't master coz it just wasn't happening for you?

### **MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:**

In Galatians 2:1-10, Paul reminds us that the Gospel he preached wasn't something he made up, it was confirmed by the leaders of the early church. The message was clear: salvation comes through Jesus alone, not by following rules or religious systems. But even after this was settled, pressure from others caused people, even Peter, to slip back into old habits of separation and performance (Galatians 2:11-14). It shows how easy it is for any of us to drift from relationship back into religion without even realizing it.

At the core of the issue is this: religion and grace cannot coexist. Religion says, "I need to prove myself." Grace says, "Jesus already did." In Galatians 2:15-16, Paul makes it clear that we are not made right with God by what we do, but by trusting in what Jesus has done. That word "justified" means being declared righteous, not because we earned it, but because God chooses to see us through Jesus. This creates a powerful tension: we are still imperfect, still growing, still struggling at times, but at the same time, fully accepted and fully loved.

This is where the phrase "just sinner" comes to life. Not *just a sinner*, defined only by failure, but a *justified sinner* - someone who is both honest about their brokenness and confident in God's grace. Galatians 2:20 reminds us that our old life doesn't define us anymore; we now live by faith in Jesus, who loved us and gave Himself for us. When we truly understand grace, it doesn't make us want to sin more, it makes us want to live differently. Not out of pressure, but out of gratitude. Not trying to earn love, but responding to the love we've already received.

### **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 the summary?
2. Do you feel like you have to earn acceptance from others or prove your worth? How does that affect the way you live?
3. Have you noticed areas in your life where your relationship with God has started to feel more like pressure or performance instead of connection?
4. Do you tend to focus more on your mistakes, or forget that you still need God's grace? Why do you think that is? **ACTION STEP:** This week, remind yourself: "*I am fully loved and still growing.*" What's one way you can live that out? (Example: give yourself grace, encourage a friend, spend time with God, or not compare yourself to others.)

### **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 declared me righteous through Jesus, help me live in that freedom every day. Help me to extend grace to others the same way You've given it to me, choosing love over judgment and relationship over rules. Use my life to show people what real freedom looks like, so they can experience Your grace and step into a relationship with You. Amen.



## MANNA CHURCH HAWAI'I - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

April 19, 2026 | Galatians: Religion vs Relationship (pt2) - "Just Sinner" vs. "Just a Sinner"

# MANNA YOUTH DISCUSSION GUIDE

**ICEBREAKER QUESTION:** What's something you really wanted to be good at (a sport, class, game, or hobby), but it just wasn't happening for you?

### **MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:**

In Galatians 2:1-10, Paul explains that the message he shared about Jesus was real and confirmed by other church leaders. The message was simple: we are saved because of Jesus, not because we follow a bunch of rules. But even after people understood that, they still felt pressure from others to go back to old habits, like trying to prove themselves or fit in. Even Peter struggled with this (Galatians 2:11-14). That shows us something important: it's really easy to drift from a real relationship with God into just "going through the motions," especially when we feel pressure from people around us.

This is something we deal with all the time as students. At school, on sports teams, or even at home, it can feel like you have to prove yourself - get good grades, play well, be liked, or fit a certain image. That same pressure can sneak into your faith, making you feel like you have to be "perfect" for God. But Galatians 2:15-16 reminds us that we are made right with God (that's what "justified" means) not by what we do, but by trusting what Jesus has already done. You don't earn God's love, you already have it.

This means you can be honest about your struggles and still be confident in God's love at the same time. You're not defined by your mistakes, your past, or what others say about you. Galatians 2:20 says your life is now connected to Jesus, He loves you and gave His life for you. When you really understand that, it changes how you live. You don't follow God because you *have to*, you follow Him because you *want to*. Not to earn love, but because you already have it. And that kind of freedom changes how you show up at school, treat your family, and love your friends.

### **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 summary?
2. Do you ever feel like you have to prove yourself (at school, sports, social media, or even with friends)? What does that feel like?
3. Have you ever felt like your relationship with God turned into pressure instead of something real and personal? What caused that?
4. Do you tend to focus more on your mistakes, or forget that you still need God's grace? Why do you think that is? **ACTION STEP:** This week, remind yourself: "*I am fully loved and still growing.*" What's one way you can live that out? (Example: give yourself grace, encourage a friend, spend time with God, or not compare yourself to others.)

### **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 prove ourselves and instead live in the freedom of being fully loved by You. Teach us to give that same grace to others at school, at home, and in our friendships. Help us grow in our faith without pressure, knowing You are with us every step. Use our lives to show others what real freedom and love look like. Amen.