



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

1 JULY

GALATIANS: REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements.

MAIN TEXT: Galatians 3:26-4:7

8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. 9 But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? 10 You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! 11 I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

12 I plead with you, brothers and sisters, become like me, for I became like you. You did me no wrong. 13 As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you, 14 and even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. 15 Where, then, is your blessing of me now? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. 16 Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

17 Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may have zeal for them. 18 It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always, not just when I am with you. 19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, 20 how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

21 Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. 23 His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

24 These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written:

“Be glad, barren woman,
you who never bore a child;
shout for joy and cry aloud,
you who were never in labor;
because more are the children of the desolate woman
than of her who has a husband.”

28 Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. 30 But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.” 31 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

***B.L.E.S.S. means:** Begin with Prayer, Listen with care Eat together, Serve with love, Share Stories. For more info see westminsterchapel.org.uk/bless.

GETTING STARTED

We want to develop and strengthen a healthy culture of encouragement at Chapel, so each week we’ll start our LG’s by sharing something we want to thank God for: an encouraging thing He’s doing in our lives, or in the lives of others. How has your prayer life and walk with God been impacted by the Expectant Prayer series and recent gatherings? What ways have you been able to B.L.E.S.S.* those around you in recent weeks?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What do people you know think about the devil?
2. Why is belief in Satan's existence (a) reasonable; (b) Biblical?
3. What is the most important fact about the devil in light of Colossians 2:15?
4. Read John 8:44, 1 Peter 5:8, 2 Corinthians 2:11, Ephesians 6:11. (a) What is Satan like? (b) Describe his schemes (see Genesis 3:1-5). Which are you most vulnerable to?
5. How does knowing you are a child of the free woman, not the slave woman, empower you to resist Satan? How can you answer Satan's accusations/criticisms/ condemnation?
6. How can we stop striving for approval and rest in grace?

NEXT STEPS & PRAYER

Break into smaller groups or pairs and share the ways you personally can be vulnerable to enemy attack. Pray for each other for strength to resist / flee / answer Satan’s accusations and schemes.

Pray into the ATOM team and Street Party events coming up this week: that we will shine God’s love brightly as His witnesses in London; claiming Jesus’ victory.

COMING UP

Summer of Fun | 1- 29 July
ATOM & Street Party | 6-8 July
Life Group Gatherings | 15 July
Prayer Meeting | 18 July
Coffee Shop Kindness | 22 July
Chapel Picnic | 29 July