

Dear Life Group Leaders,

This passage is all about Paul's relationship with the Galatians. There are loads in here about Paul's love and concern for them. And there are several delightful theological nuggets to enjoy along the way!

God bless, take care and stay strong,

Andy

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

Galatians 4:8-20

This Week's BIG IDEA: v19-20 seem like a good summary to me!

Please read Galatians 4:8-20

1. v8-9, what contrast is Paul making in these verses?
2. v8, who/what are these false gods that Paul is referring to?
[Leaders note: Paul is referring back to their pagan practises before they become Christians. So, think pagan idol worship. // You may not need this next bit of the note... but it's interesting, then, that in v9, when Paul is talking about the Galatians "turning back" by following legalistic false teaching... Paul seems to be inferring that reliance on the Law for salvation for us is a comparable or similar legalistic superstition to pagan idol worship. That's some strong stuff from Paul!]
3. v9, how does Paul feel about these false gods?
[Leaders note: that they are weak, miserable and enslaving.]
4. What idols are you most in danger of serving?
5. v9, what difference is there between us knowing God, and being known by God? How does God knowing you reassure you today?
6. **Praise break.** A quote from Tim Keller on v9: *"The great and central basis of Christian assurance is not how much our hearts are set on God, but how unshakably His heart is set on us."* Take a few minutes to praise God for his amazing love!
7. v10-11, what does this list refer to? And what is Paul's fear?
[Leaders note: They were all part of the ceremonial laws of the Mosaic covenant e.g. Lev 23:5, 16, 28.]
8. v12-16, what do we learn about Paul's time with the Galatians? And what change has there been?
[Leaders note: Note, v14, hospitality and v15, generosity. Paul is now seen as an enemy.]
9. Look at this passage as a whole. What language does Paul use to describe how he feels about the Galatians? What does this say about their relationship?
[Leaders note: focus on verses 11, 12, 16, 19, 20.]
10. v17-18, what is revealed here about the false teachers' motivation? Could you be motivated by the same goals? Do you ever find it appealing to have people relying on you in some way? Why?
11. v19, how does Paul's goal differ from the false teachers' motivation?
[Leaders note: False teachers want followers who glorify them; Paul wants partners who glorify Christ.]
12. v19, what do you think Paul means by the phrase "... Christ is formed in you"? Do you share this passion for members of this Life Group and our church?
13. You might like to use this prayer as the basis for prayers of response following this study... A nineteenth century Christian missionary to China, called Hudson Taylor, had a scrap of paper which he would move in his diary each day so that whatever else he was doing in his day, he would always read this prayer: *Lord Jesus, make thyself to me a living bright reality. More present to faith's vision keen than any outward objects seem. More dear, more intimately nigh, than e'en the sweetest earthly tie.*