

Dear Life Group Leaders,

Week three! And we still in the middle of a longer autobiographical section in Paul's letter. Paul is taking his time answering specific allegations made against him by some false teachers in Galatia. As last week, help your Life Group understand this context. It really does help unlock what Paul is getting at! Remember these false teachers in Galatia are trying to convince the Galatians that they needed to obey the Mosaic Law (think circumcision, food laws etc.) to be accepted by God. But Paul is determined that the Galatians don't forget the essential foundation of grace to the Christian life.

Before you get in to your preparation for this study as you read through these notes, take a few minutes to pray. Pray for the time you and your Life Group are going to spend in this passage. May God speak to you as you study together and wrestle with this scripture. May you be drawn closer to him and into a deeper understanding of his grace.

God bless, take care and stay strong,

Andy

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

Galatians 2:1-10

This Week's BIG IDEA: Paul's unity with the apostles in Jerusalem.

Please read Galatians 2:1-10.

1. These verses come in the middle of a longer autobiographical section about Paul's ministry. Before we unpack Gal 2:1-10, can anyone summarise where Paul has got to so far in his story? Can you also remember why he is including these specific parts of his story?
[Leaders note: You can look at the last two Life Group Guides to remind yourself of some of the specific allegations it seems Paul was facing.]
2. v1, where did Paul go and who did he take with him? What do we know about Barnabas and Titus? What is significant about having these different people in his team?
[Leaders note: Barnabas appears throughout Acts and was a key leader in the early church. He accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey, and is also an apostle (Acts 14:14). Titus was a companion of Paul, we're given more detail about him in v3. Paul also wrote a letter to him, can you guess what we call it? Barnabas is a Jew, Titus a Greek.]
3. In v2 Paul says, "I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain." How does reading this verse in the context of Galatians 1-2 help us understand what Paul is saying here?
[Leaders note: Look at verses like 1v6-9 and 2v5. Paul is not going to Jerusalem to check that the gospel message he is preaching is the right one (why wait 14 years to do that?), he is concerned that these false teachers in Galatia won't be renounced by the leaders in Jerusalem and therefore he would lose these Galatian churches, and others he had planted, to a false gospel of works.]
4. v4-5, what insight do these verses give us to Paul's attitude towards those who wanted to compel Titus to be circumcised? What do we learn about the gospel here? Why was Paul so keen not to compromise?
[Leaders note: for Paul, the correct understanding of the gospel is the difference between slavery and freedom. He wants this truth to be "preserved". Knowing the grace God gives to us through Jesus is essential to our understanding of the gospel, and fundamental to our identity in him.]
5. Take a moment for some personal reflection. Do you ever feel guilty or insecure in your relationship with God? What might this be telling you about how you view your acceptance with him?
6. Back to the passage. In v6, Paul says the other apostles added nothing to his message. Why is this point so important to Paul's argument in this part of the letter?
[Leaders note: Paul is being really clear that he hasn't withheld anything of the gospel from the Galatians, indeed he is in total agreement with the leaders in Jerusalem about the gospel of grace.]
7. v6-9, what do these verses tell us about the way the church goes out on mission?
[Leaders note: that we are united together and preach the same gospel, but we each have specific parts to play in that united mission.]
8. v10. How are you caring for the poor? How does Galatians 2:10 encourage and/or challenge you?