

Dear Life Group Leaders,

Having last week looked at old and new covenants described using the Old Testament narrative of the sons of Abraham, Paul now begins to move into the practicalities of what this new revelation means for the Galatians. The verses we are looking at will focus specifically on being free from the law and learning to serve on a foundation of freedom and love. Let's pray that God highlights and breaks any areas of slavery in ours and our Life Group members lives.

God bless, Will

*(This week's Life Group Guide is brought to you by Will Gray, a Life Group Leader in our Southfields Venue)*

## **LIFE GROUP GUIDE**

### **Galatians 5:1-15**

**This Week's BIG IDEA:** We have been set free from the Law! Now, use your freedom to love and serve others.  
**Please read Galatians 5:1-15.**

1. We're jumping in on the middle of a letter here, so it's important to remind ourselves where we are. What has been the thrust of Paul's argument so far?
2. v1, what is the yoke of slavery for the Galatians? And is it different for us now?  
*[Leaders note: It's the old covenant which Paul referred to it in the previous verses. For us now, it's anything that is trying to earn God's favour rather than receive it, i.e. legalism.]*
3. v2-6, why is Paul so concerned about circumcision if he says it doesn't matter?  
*[Leaders note: Jesus's love doesn't depend on whether you're circumcised or not. But if you're trying to earn his love through circumcision, which represents the old covenant, then you're in trouble.]*
4. If Paul was writing v3-4 to us today, what do you think he might replace circumcision with?  
*[Leaders note: Not really looking for anything in particular, just ways we might be trying to earn God's love through cultural rules rather than his grace. Things like, more Bible study = God loves me more.]*
5. What do v5-6 mean?  
*[Leaders note: Try and focus in on Jesus here, what he's won for us and what he is calling us to.]*
6. v7-12, Paul seems to change direction quite quickly here, why is he so angry? Is it OK that he is?
7. Thinking both as an individual and as a church, do you think you/we take a strong enough stand against living under the law to get right with God? If not, how do we change that?
8. Read v13-15: If Paul said we're free from the law why is he now quoting the law at us and expecting us to follow it? What's the difference between service here and slavery in v1?  
*[Leaders note: Being free from salvation through the Law does not mean that the morally good laws stop being morally good. Loving others does not determine our salvation but reveals whether we've truly realised God's way is better than our way. Service in v13 is something voluntary rather than forced. One flows from freedom, one does not.]*
9. How do we know if we're living in a relationship with God from law or from grace?  
*[Leaders note: E.g. feeling guilty if you miss your quiet times may be a sign you're living under law not grace. You could ask if your Life Group if they have any specific situations which God spoke grace in to their lives where there was law. You could contrast v13-14 with v15, these seem like too very different ways to approach others.]*
10. How can we encourage one another to live from grace?
11. To finish you might like to listen to a song about the glorious truth of what Jesus has done and the freedom he brings. Spend some time thanking him for his grace and asking him to reveal to us if we've been living out parts of our lives under law rather than grace and declaring his freedom.