

Dear Life Group Leaders,

This week is our penultimate study in Galatians. In this final chapter of the letter, Paul turns decisively towards application. Let's not shy away from asking difficult questions and challenging our Life Group members as we honestly appraise our lives in the light of what Paul is teaching. But make a special effort this week to do so in an atmosphere of love, kindness and grace. Seek to embody these verses in your Life Group meeting this week. You might need to take a lead in being vulnerable and sharing first. Look for ways to encourage your group as we seek to keep in step with the Spirit.

God bless,

Andy

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

Galatians 5:26-6:5

This Week's BIG IDEA: Watch out for pride. We should seek to serve one another inside.

Please read Galatians 5:26-6:5.

1. In chapter 6 Paul turns towards application. But before we get into those verses, could someone summarise Paul's main points from our passage last week (Gal 5:16-26)?
2. v26, how does your conceit show itself in your relationships? While we may well be a mixture of the two, most of us naturally tend towards either provoking or envying as the outworking of our conceit. Take some time to reflect on the questions below. They will help you understand which one you tend towards:
 - Do I have a tendency to "blow up" or do I tend to "calm up"?
 - Do I tend to pick arguments with people or do I completely avoid confrontation?
 - Do I tend to get very down on individuals and groups of people or am I more often embarrassed and intimidated around certain classes or kinds of people?
 - When criticised, do I get angry and judgmental – and simply attack right back? Or do I get discouraged and defensive – make lots of excuses, or give right in?
 - Do I often think: *I would never, ever do what this person has done?* Or do I often look at people and say: *I could never, ever accomplish what this person does?*
3. v1, what does restoration look like in the context of this verse? What do you think Paul has in mind? Can you think of any appropriate examples to share of a time when this happened in your own life or the life of someone you know?
4. Is there a habitual sin you need to gently restore a brother or sister from?
5. Are you willing to listen to others who seek to restore you?
6. v2, what assumptions is Paul making in these verses?
[Leaders note: We all have burdens. We need to be open and honest about them in order to help one another carry them. We need to share our struggles and be vulnerable.]
7. What opportunities has God given you to carry another's burden?
8. v3, what is Paul warning us about in this verse?
[Leaders note: the danger of pride and boasting. You can refer people back to v26.]
9. v4-5, is there a difference of the "load" Paul describes in this verse, and the "burdens" he mentions in v2?
10. How is it liberating to know that you will only answer for your own load, and not how you lived compared to others?
11. How will having a self-image based on the gospel change the way you see yourself and others? When do you particularly need to preach the gospel to yourself?