

Dear Life Group Leaders,

It's our sixth week in Galatians! Today's passage is right in the middle of a larger argument Paul is weaving through Galatians 3:1-4:7. This study will feel quite technical at times. But stick with it, let it fuel your gratitude that God our Father has made us righteous through faith in his perfect son Jesus!

God bless, take care and stay strong,

Andy

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

Galatians 3:15-25

This Week's BIG IDEA: Emphasising the importance of the Promise and understanding the purpose of the Law.

Please read Galatians 3:15-25.

1. v15, what point is Paul seeking to illustrate with this example? How many everyday examples of a human covenant can you think of?
[Leaders note: This is a good opportunity to summarise v1-14. Paul is building an argument and we need to understand v15-25 in the broader context of the letter.]
2. v16, what promises is Paul referring to? And who do they ultimately point to?
[Leaders note: You might like to get your group to turn to Genesis 12:7, 13:15, 24:7 to read this "to your offspring/seed" in context.]
3. v17-18, why does the order that the promise and the law were given matter so much to Paul?
4. God repeatedly promises a lot to Abraham in Genesis, but let's dive into one particular passage...
 - a. Please read the whole of Genesis 15.
 - b. How far through Abram's story are in by Genesis 15?
 - c. v1-6, what does God promise Abram and what is Abram's response?
 - d. v7-21, what reassurance does Abram seek and what is God's response?
 - e. v17-18, who passes between the halved animals?
 - f. How do the details of God's covenant-making ceremony with Abram encourage you?
[Leaders note: Abram believes God that he will have many descendants, and asks for reassurance that he will be able to settle in the promised land. Halving the animals was a graphic way of those entering the covenant to say: If I break this agreement, may I be cut up and cut off: I will deserve to die just like these animals did. Note that only God passes between the halves, showing that this covenant relies on God and is not conditional on Abram's obedience.]
5. v19-20, what is the purpose of the Law?
[Leaders note: v19b-20 are most likely referencing Moses and the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. "Added because of transgressions" means the law tells us more about sin than salvation. It shows that we are law-breakers in need of a saviour.]
6. v21, what is the limit of the Law?
[Leaders note: The law shows us that we are not righteous, but it doesn't have the power to make us righteous.]
7. v22-24, again, what is the purpose of the Law?
[Leaders note: it acts like a guard and a tutor in our lives, teaching us about our sin and pointing us towards Christ.]
8. v25, if we believe in Jesus, what is our relationship to the Law?
[Leaders note: we recognise that it has done its job. It's pointing us towards Jesus. You might also want to tease 3:26-4:7 to your Life Group where Paul completes his current point.]
9. Let's consider a few application questions.
 - a. When are you most tempted to look to your own efforts to make yourself acceptable to God?
 - b. How does knowing God's law increase your gratitude to Christ? What difference does this make to your affections?