

Dear Life Group Leaders,

Week two of our Galatians series! In the passages we're looking at over the next few weeks Paul is very autobiographical. Take your time to help your Life Group understand the context Paul is writing in to. There were false teachers in Galatia trying to convince the Galatians that they needed to obey the Mosaic Law (think circumcision, food laws etc.) to be accepted by God. This is why this letter is so full of God's grace. Paul is determined that the Galatians don't forget this essential foundation to the Christian life.

A top tip for encouraging deeper conversations... ask questions like "What did you mean by that?" and "How did you come to that conclusion?" These are particularly helpful if your Life Group members insist on giving short or shallow answers to your questions. God bless, take care and stay strong,

Andy

## **LIFE GROUP GUIDE** **Galatians 1:10-24**

**This Week's BIG IDEA:** Paul defends himself and the gospel of grace from false teachers in Galatia.

**Please read Galatians 1:10-24.**

1. To start, consider these verses as a whole. How could we characterise what Paul is writing about?  
*[Leaders note: It feels like we're reading Paul's testimony, doesn't it? In fact, these verses are part of a longer section, 1:10-2:21, that is known as the autobiographical section of this letter.]*
2. Why might Paul spend so long talking about his own journey?  
*[Leaders note: Remember the context of these verses and the start of the letter, v1-9. You might like to point your Life Group towards v7, particularly the reference to "some people". Both Paul himself and the gospel message he proclaimed are being undermined. One of the major themes of this letter is that Jesus + nothing = The gospel. Jesus + something = A false gospel. His own story underlines this fact.]*
3. Reading Paul's letters are like reading one half of a conversation. With this in mind, what claims is Paul refuting in v13-14, v15-17, v18-19?  
*[Leaders note: You could split your Life Group in to three smaller groups for this question, give them each one of these groups of verses and ask them to report back. v13-14 = that he invented his gospel message by himself, instead Paul reminds us that he was on a very different path before he met Jesus on the Damascus Road. v15-17 = that he got his message from the church in Jerusalem but wasn't telling the Galatians the whole truth, instead Paul says the gospel was revealed to him by Jesus. v18-19 = that he is in disagreement with the church in Jerusalem, instead Paul underlines the unity they enjoyed together (see also v24).]*
4. What do these verses teach us about the different ways we can grow as Christians and learn more about God?  
*[Leaders note: i) Revelation from Christ himself (remembering this is the only way any of us become Christians!). ii) Personal Bible study, prayer and reflection. iii) Engaging with and learning from others (this is an important point... Paul didn't just make up his own gospel message nor claim things about God that were utterly alien to what God had previously revealed in Scripture or to other believers.)]*
5. To application! Return to v10.
  - a. Where are you living to please others rather than living to please God?
  - b. In living to please God, where might you have moved from relational obedience to religious duty?
6. v11-12 remind us that the origins of the gospel is the heart and work of God himself, it is not an invention of people. CS Lewis said, "Christianity must be from God, for who else could have thought it up?" It can be so easy for us to slip in to manmade religion. We need to regularly recalibrate ourselves back to God's gospel of grace. This week Zac Guy has written a blog post about how worship can help us do this. Helpfully, he links to a Spotify playlist of grace-saturated songs he's put together. Finish this study by praying together and listening to one, or a few, of these songs together.  
*[Leaders note: the blog post on <https://www.everydayvoices.org.uk/> is called Recalibrating Worship. You can find the playlist on Spotify on our EVERYDAY.WIM profile, it's called By The Grace Of God.]*