



### **Week 5 – Fine-Tuning Grace**

**ARRIVAL / CONNECTING and SNACK:** (15 minutes) Spend time catching up and socializing with one another. Follow up on prayer requests and any action steps from your last time together.

**SHORT OPENING PRAYER FOR YOUR TIME TOGETHER:** (2 minutes)

**SCRIPTURE:** (10 minutes) We are reading two fairly large (for group time) passages of Scripture. Sometimes it helps everyone stay engaged if you switch readers every few verses or every paragraph. Open your Bibles to **Genesis 15**. Read the chapter slowly enough for everyone to enjoy and reflect quietly for a bit. Now turn to and read **Galatians 3**. Reflect a few moments.

**OBSERVATION and REFLECTION:** (30 minutes)

- What did Abraham believe that was counted to him as righteousness?
- Why was the Law of Moses given according to the Galatians passage? What is the purpose of a “guardian” and how does that concept relate to the Law of Moses? (*Helpful hint: Imagine a child has been promised a “trust” that he or she will receive when he or she turns 21 years old. As the child grows however, a guardian is appointed to prepare the child to receive that trust. How are the two concepts related?*)
  - What impact does the guardianship have on the certainty of the promise?
  - What does the promise depend upon?
  - When does the guardianship end?
  - When the guardianship does end, what is intended to govern the way the child enjoys the benefits of the trust?
- According to Galatians 3:23-29, are we still responsible to follow the Law of Moses? Why or why not? What is intended to govern the way we now enjoy the benefits of the promise God has given us in Jesus?

**DISCUSSION:** (30 minutes)

- If someone you know tries to convince you that to please God, you need to follow a set of rules and disciplines, how will you answer them? If they respond that apart from “rules of holiness” we have no way of knowing what pleases God, how will you answer them?
- Do you think the Law of Moses in the Old Testament has any value for followers of Jesus today? If so, what value do you think it has? If not, why do you think it has no value?

**SURRENDER:** (10 minutes)

- What is God specifically saying to you in light of today’s discussion?

**PRAYER:** (10 min) Pray for one another and encourage each other forward in your journey of faith.