



A STUDY THROUGH Galatians – Freed for Transformation

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)

Context for today's discussion: *The churches in the province of Galatia had experienced the power of putting their faith in the true gospel. Paul preached to them that Jesus Christ is the only person who can forgive sin and give us a new life. Thousands of lives were transformed. Then a group of Jews professing to be Christians came from Jerusalem. They told the Galatians that Paul's message and authority were false. They convinced people to keep believing in Jesus but that they had to also obey the law of Moses (this was a "Jesus PLUS the law" religion). They ordered all the men to be circumcised and to follow the Jewish dietary laws and sacrificial system. Paul is writing to courageously challenge the churches to go back to Christ (the true gospel) because Christ fulfilled all of the righteous requirements of the law in His perfect life and His finished work on the cross.*

SCRIPTURE: (5 minutes) Open your Bibles to **Galatians 3:1-14**. Read the passage slowly enough for everyone to enjoy, then reflect quietly for a few moments. You may want to read each smaller section again as you go through the questions.

OBSERVATION, REFLECTION, and DISCUSSION: (50 minutes)

Galatians 3:1-9

- Why is Paul so emphatic the Galatians come back to the gospel and reject obeying the Law?
- Why is it important to understand why Paul mentioned that Abraham "believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness?" (*answer: Because the Judiazers were pulling out the "Abraham card" as he was considered the father of the Jewish faith... Yet, Abraham didn't have the Law (v 17). Abraham believed in God's promise of future grace in the messiah.*)
- Describe a time in your life where you felt the pull to walk away from grace back into the law? Please be specific.

Galatians 3:10-14

- Why is living under the law a curse to those who try to obey it perfectly?
- What is the difference between the foundation of grace and the foundation of law? (*answer: vv 11-12*)
- What are present day examples of "law" that we live by rather than grace?
- How does a person become filled with the Holy Spirit according to Paul in this passage?

SURRENDER: (10 minutes)

- What does it look like for you to cling to the gospel in your daily life?

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