

# galatians

THE SIMPLE GOSPEL

discussion guide

## WEEK 5: A CHILD, NOT A SLAVE

### Read the Text

#### Galatians 4: 1-7

<sup>1</sup> I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, <sup>2</sup> but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. <sup>3</sup> In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

### Main Point

Chapter 4 of Galatians finally changes tone from rebuke to reminder. ***Paul reminds us that God doesn't see us as slaves, bondservants, or employees, but rather as sons and daughters.*** Imagine if we went through life believing that to the core. No more striving. No more trying to prove ourselves. No more self-condemnation. Living as sons and daughters means realizing that although we are under the law, we will never be able to fully obey it; but God in His perfect love for us, sent Jesus to cleanse us of all our sin and shortcomings. ***Because of Jesus'***

***willingness to pay the penalty for us, we are now free from any accusations that the law brings against us.*** And it goes even further! This isn't just a casual favor, or even a transaction. Jesus' payment for our sins gives us adoption into God's family. ***Our salvation isn't just a negative brought to zero. We gain something profound. We gain righteousness. We gain a new heart. We gain relationship. We gain full rights into God's family.***

### **Reflect Together**

- 1. *Who is God?*** At the end of this week's gathering, we reflected and prayed over the following statement: "Law I will not listen to you. The time has come for me to be free and I will not put up with your tyranny any longer." Read this statement three times as a group (either out loud together, or have one person at a time read it aloud). How does this reflect who God is? How is this good news to you?
- 2. *What has He done?*** How have you experienced freedom from the law? What does it mean to you that God is your "Abba" Father?
- 3. *Who are you?*** Sometimes we live as though we are still burdened by the law and forget about our "sonship". How do you know when you're falling into forgetfulness? What helps you remember that you are an heir?
- 4. *What are you to do?*** What needs to change in your life so you can live in your sonship, and be freed from the law?

### **Abide Together**

Similar to question 1, pray over this statement together: "Law I will not listen to you. The time has come for me to be free and I will not put up with your tyranny any longer."

### **Mission Together**

Who in your life needs to hear that they are sons and heirs, and are free from the tyranny of the law? How can you pursue that

person? Summer is here! Consider creating a social get-together to bring these people in and grow in relationship with them.