

Life Group Guide  
February 5-11

**Prep:**

Review the video and Life Group Guide prior to your meeting.

**Welcome:**

Take a few minutes to catch up with your Life Group friends. How are they managing the winter? Does anyone have plans for a winter break?

**Video:**

Show the video. It is less than 3 minutes long. It will set up the conversation.

**Scripture**

Galatians 1: <sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— <sup>2</sup> and all the brothers and sisters with me,

To the churches in Galatia:

<sup>3</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup> to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

<sup>6</sup> I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— <sup>7</sup> which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached

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to you, let them be under God's curse!<sup>9</sup> As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

<sup>10</sup> Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

**OBSERVATION:** Please read verse 4 again. Paul states that Jesus gave himself for our sins to RESCUE us from the present evil age.

**QUESTION:** What do you think it means to be rescued from the present evil age? Who is doing the rescuing? Who is being rescued? What are we being rescued from?

**QUESTION:** Why is it possible for some people to hear the truth about God and not respond to it?

**OBSERVATION:** Jesus rescues us from things we have believed about God that are not true.

**OBSERVATION:** Jesus gave himself for our sins. We have been rescued through a substitute. Even if we had a thousand lifetimes to live, we are not capable of living perfectly.

**QUESTION:** How did Jesus substitute himself for us?

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**OBSERVATION:** Many people only see how Jesus substituted himself for us to pay for our sins. Jesus also substituted us for himself in righteousness. He took our sins. We received his righteousness.

**QUESTION:** What do you think it means when we receive the righteousness of Christ?

**OBSERVATION:** All of this was done according to the will of God. Our redemption was not our idea. We are not the ones who took the initiative.

**QUESTION:** What does it reveal about God when we discover our redemption was His idea?

**OBSERVATION:** A different gospel is no gospel at all. Either we will depend on the work of Christ on the Cross, or we will depend on our own works to make us acceptable to God.

**QUESTION:** How much confidence can a person have in approaching God if they are depending on their own works?

**QUESTION:** In verse 9, do you think that the Apostle Paul is trying to curse those who alter the Gospel?

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**OBSERVATION:** The moment you add something to the gospel you have taken the “good” out of the good news. If we have to earn our salvation, then we do not need to be rescued.

**QUESTION:** Why do you think people want to add to the gospel or alter the gospel in some way?

**OBSERVATION:** The Apostle Paul reveals why people try to alter the gospel in verse 10. People alter the gospel because they desire the approval of others. Approval addiction can drive you to do terrible things and it can paralyze you at the very moment when you are most needed.

**QUESTION:** Do you think that the fear of rejection has any connection to seeking the approval of others?

**OBSERVATION:** Paul reveals the way to escape approval addiction. Serve Christ. When you serve Christ you are not trying to please people and you are not afraid of people. You are simply being obedient to Christ.

**QUESTION:** If you were making decisions in your life based on your understanding of the gospel, how do you think they would be different?

**OBSERVATION:** If we add to the gospel or take away from the gospel, then we will never see how loving, good and powerful God

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is. God loves us because He loves us. He doesn't love us for the service we provide Him.

**PRAYER:**

Please take a few minutes to ask for prayer concerns from your group members. Remind each other in your prayers, that God's desire and ability to answer our requests is not based in our works or our goodness, but in His works and His goodness.

If there is a significant issue in a group member's life, please make sure to follow up with a call, text or email. You might also want to pass this info along to Pastor Bob and Pastor Jonathan.