

How to use This Guide:

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the key questions, add any optional scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

Our Main Idea:

We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone! Our salvation is not based on our performance for God, but instead is based upon God's love for us.

Opening

Have you ever played a game with a child (or adult) who made up rules of the game as they went along. Sometimes we treat Christianity as a game with changing rules. Share experiences when you believed that you had to follow unbiblical "rules" in order to be a Christian. How did these unbiblical rules affect your relationship with Christ? With others? In what ways did Christianity seem more of a burden than a gift to you?

Key Questions:

- Count the number of times that Paul uses the word "grace" or makes reference to grace in Galatians 1. Why does Paul seem to be focusing on the idea of grace?
- According to the Judaizers, was Christ's death on the cross sufficient for salvation?
- How do we in contemporary culture add requirements to salvation? What do we tell new believers that it takes to be a "good Christian?"
- What is the difference between obedience to Christ's commands in Scripture and creating false requirements for salvation?
- Enlist three volunteers to read Galatians 1:4, 1:13-15, and Ephesians 1:3. What do these verses indicate about God's desire and calling for our salvation? Who initiates salvation?
- If God initiates our salvation and reveals it to us freely, what effort do we have to make in order to receive it? Can we do anything to earn it?
- Why do we often feel like God loves us based on our performance? How does this thinking damage our relationship with Him?
- How can sin enslave us? How can sin keep us from living the free life that God has provided for us and called us to?
- How are we responding to God's grace when we do not share Christ with the world? What does our disobedience to Christ's commands illustrate about our view of God's grace?
- **What was your biggest take-away from the weekend message?**

Next Steps

What did God say to you today through His Word? And what are you going to do about it! Finish your group time with prayer, asking God for help in living in Freedom

Experience

Your Relationship with God

Name some ways we substitute our own rules in place of Jesus' commands. What is at stake when we do this?

Equip

Your Relationship with Others

Do we hinder people from coming to Christ by making up rules for salvation and for following Him?

Engage

Your Relationship with the World

How does God's grace enable believers to share the word of the gospel with the world?