

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:

In Galatians 4:8-31 we see that God's desire is for us to become more like Jesus Christ, and as a result of becoming more like Christ (who we are) our lives (what we do) will be radically different.

Opening Question

Do you ever portray Christianity as a religion rather than as a relationship, particularly with non-Christian friends, family member, or neighbors? Discuss how simply asking people to "go to church" with you, or telling people they need to read the Bible or pray more, or how telling your children they need to do this or that religious activity, can actually portray Christianity in an inaccurate way.

Key Questions:

- Do you think God is more concerned with what we do or with who we are?
- In what sense does the gospel bring freedom from slavery? What does it mean to live as a child in a relationship not enslaved to religion?
- What does it mean to be "known by God" (v. 9)? Why is this an amazing thing to say?
- What might it look like to rely on the law for salvation? How is this contrary to the gospel?
- How does Isaac's miraculous birth picture a believer's birth by the Holy Spirit? How are we miracle children (vv. 21-31)?
- If God still expects His people to obey, how is a relationship with Him different from being a slave to religion?
- How is any attempt to earn favor before God, even under the banner of religion, a form of paganism?
- What are some practical ways to grow in an intimate relationship with God?
- Have you ever become someone's enemy by telling the truth (4:16)? Do you need to speak the truth in love to someone right now? If so, explain why.
- Why does the truth of the gospel often meet opposition from those who claim to be religious?
- In verse 19 we see Paul's passion for the spiritual growth of the church in Galatia. In what ways can you foster that kind of love for fellow believers?
- What are some ways your life would be different if you began living more for your heavenly home than for your earthly home in the city you currently live in?
- In what ways is it hardest for you to live out God's Word practically on a day to day basis? How can your small group pray for you in particular ways this next week?
- **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

How have your actions this past week shown you your true character

Equip

Your Relationship with Others

What's something you do because others tell you must do it, but that you really don't want to do? What does this say about what is going on in your heart?

Engage

Your Relationship with the World

How can you be more faithful in portraying Christianity accurately to others? How can you portray a grace based Christianity that is neither legalistic nor lawless?