

### 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:

The gospel therefore neither leads us to live a guilty life (since God has lovingly accepted us), nor an unholy life (since the God who has accepted us is perfectly holy). To forget the first is to fall into the mistake Paul deals with in verse 1, and lose our freedom; to forget the second is to make the verse 13 error, and abuse our freedom. Both mean we lose grasp of the gospel.

### Opening Question

Two enemies of Christian freedom are legalism (working to gain God's favor) and license (living however we want in light of God's favor on us through Christ). In Galatians 5, Paul uses the Jewish rite of circumcision as an example of legalism with which the churches in Galatia were struggling.

- Discuss some ways that today's church struggles with legalism. What do you think are the three most common works that people try to accomplish to gain God's favor?

Paul also exhorts the Galatian churches not to use their freedom "as an opportunity for the flesh" in Galatians 5:13.

- Discuss some ways that today's church struggles with abusing freedom in Christ. What do you think are the three most common abuses of the freedom we have in Christ?

### Key Questions:

- Respond to this sentiment: Adding a little to the gospel is not a major problem, as long as we believe in the cross.
- What does it mean to be set free by Christ?
- Does eternal security give us freedom to sin without fear of the consequences? Explain. How do many in our culture define freedom? How does Paul define it?
- What's the difference between the kind of work that misses God's grace and the kind that pleases Him?
- Does the phrase "fallen from grace" (5:4) refer to losing your salvation? If not, then what does it mean?
- If we are already made righteous in Christ, then to what does the phrase "the hope of righteousness" (5:5) refer?
- Explain the difference between hope as the Bible defines it and hope as many people use the word today.
- What was your reaction to Paul's words in 5:12? Why do you think he said that?
- Why should our freedom in Christ lead us to a life of love for one another and our neighbors?
- Have you ever seen people in the church "bite and devour one another?" (5:15). What were the causes? How does this passage speak to this problem?
- **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 does knowing that we, as Christ-followers, will reach the goal of attaining His righteousness, change the way we "run the race" / live our lives?

#### Equip

Your Relationship with Others

How might a person slip back into legalism when trying to obey the mandate to love others selflessly?

#### Engage

Your Relationship with the World

Paul tells us to use our freedom to serve one another in love. How can we share that love and serve others in our community?