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How much would you be willing to pay for a fake branded item? Would you give your sick child fake medicine? Or how would you feel if a client paid you fake money or gave a forged check for a multi-million business transaction? How would a beloved sweetheart feel if you gave imitation jewelry as a gift, under the guise that it was the real thing?

Nobody enjoys or desires inauthentic items, fake financial deals or worse, be in a relationship with a fake individual. Yet too often, we fall for a counterfeit kind of faith. Sincerely believing that what we know to be true is the real thing is no guarantee that it is so. When it comes to our eternal destiny, believing in something fake will lead to devastating consequences. Today, we are confronted by different belief systems that offer various versions of what the truth is about God, salvation, the afterlife, and what this life is all about. So how can we be sure that what we believe in, or not believe in, is the real thing?

This is why we came up with this easy-to-use small group discussion guide for the book of Galatians. No matter where you are in your spiritual journey, you will benefit from conversations and experiences you share with a group of kindred spirits, fellow travelers on the road to discover what the authentic gospel of Jesus Christ is. What you do with the truth you discover will be up to you.

Explore.
Examine.
Express.
Experience the truth with your small group as you go through the Book 3: Galatians small group workbook.
This workbook is for the GLC Essentials Galatians Book 3 study. It can be used as a stand-alone Bible study guide for small groups.

If you are a small group servant/facilitator, all you have to do is make sure that you do a personal Bible study using this workbook ahead of your small group meeting for preparation. Encourage your group members to have their own workbooks. Do not divert the teaching topic – stick to what is in the workbook.

The workbook includes the Bible lesson, and individual and small group learning activities to help you get the most out of your meetings. There are four parts in every session: Explore, Examine, Express and Experience.

- **Explore** — contains individual and small group activities that help prepare you for the Bible study.

- **Examine** — this is where you go through the Bible lesson with your group.

- **Express** — this is where the members of the group get a chance to express more of their insights, questions and thoughts about the Bible lesson. They can do it in writing, doodling or drawing, and sharing to the rest of the group.

- **Experience** — this section is accomplished outside the group meeting time. There are suggested individual or group Life Apps that will hopefully help you experience life transformation as you apply God’s truth in practical ways.

This workbook is just a tool. We need to depend on the Holy Spirit to teach us God’s truth and transform our hearts as we go through the Bible studies.

So, come and discover the Truth that will change your life!
“What is truth?”

Pontius Pilate
Jerusalem, 33 AD
John 18:38a
1. How would you answer the following questions?

A. \[ 2 + 3 = \underline{\phantom{0}00} \]

B. The colors found in a rainbow are...
   
   \[ \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00} \]

C. Draw a circle, a triangle, and an octagon inside the boxes below:

   [Circle] [Triangle] [Octagon]

D. Write down the numbers one through ten in sequence below:

   \[ \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00} \]

   \[ \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00}, \underline{\phantom{0}00} \]

   Now compare your answers with the rest of the group.

2. What did you notice about your answers compared to the others?
3. Where did you base your answers on?

4. Based on this activity, would you agree or disagree with this statement?

“A person can be sincere and yet be sincerely wrong.” For example, if someone says, 2+2=5 and he sincerely believes it, would that make it right?

“It does not matter what you believe as long as you are sincere in what you believe in.”

(Circle one)

I agree.

I disagree.
Truth is EXCLUSIVE. Something is either true or not true. You cannot have anything in between.
The theme of Galatians is...

The True Gospel

Before we examine the book of Galatians further:

When it comes to our SALVATION, what do you think is the correct formula?

A. Faith in Jesus + Good Works = Salvation

Or

B. Faith in Jesus = Salvation which results in Good Works
Consistent godly BEHAVIOR comes after CORRECT THINKING and knowledge of the TRUTH.

(In other words, you cannot expect someone to behave correctly if that person doesn’t have correct thinking based on the truth.)
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First 4 chapters are **Doctrinal**

Last 2 chapters deal with **Behavior**
Read from the Bible and/or write down
Galatians 1:1-5 in this page.

(You may also pick out some key words or phrases from the verses and write those down. You may even want to create a picture/icon/symbol to represent key ideas or make a mind map.)

Paul greets the Galatian believers with
GRACE and PEACE

1. Why do you think Paul mentions “grace” first before “peace”?

(You may write down your thoughts in the space below before you share them with a partner and/or the rest of the group.)
“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
Galatians 1:3
Read Galatians 1:6-7.

2. What was the problem that Paul wanted to address with the church in Galatia?

3. How did Paul refer to the kind of gospel that the Galatian believers followed?

A Different Gospel is a Distorted Gospel

Paul was saying,

“I cannot change the gospel, the apostle Peter cannot change the gospel, the apostle John cannot change the gospel. For that matter, no religious leader can change the gospel.”

Who can change the gospel and come up with a different one?

No one. Not even apostles. Not even angels.
Think about it...

4. If an angel appeared and performed miracles and declared,

   “This is now a NEW gospel,”

Will you believe him?

**Not even an ANGEL can change the gospel!**

Many people’s faith is based on miracles. In the Bible, there are many passages that show that people were deceived by miracles that were actually done by the Devil and his cohorts.

Write down Matthew 24:24 below.

What is the Bible telling us?

*Don’t make miracles the basis of your faith. If you do, you will be DECEIVED.*
KNOW GOD’S WORD AND LET THAT BE THE BASIS OF YOUR FAITH.
What did Paul say about those who preach a different (wrong) gospel?

They are “ACCURSED”.
This word literally means ‘anathema’ or ‘condemned to hell’.

Paul is saying,
You cannot change the gospel.

The consequences are very serious if you do.

5. What is the TRUE GOSPEL by which you are saved if you BELIEVE?

Write down 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 below. or scribble down key words or phrase, or doodle symbols that represent major ideas.
JESUS

DIED for our sins.

Was buried.

And RESURRECTED from death.

All in 3 days.
Who is Simon Greenleaf?
One of the principal founders of the Harvard Law School was Simon Greenleaf (1783–1853). Dr. Greenleaf used to put down the Christians in his law classes. His Christian students challenged him to take his three volumes on the Laws of Legal Evidence and apply the principles to evidence of the resurrection of Christ.

What does Dr. Greenleaf discover?
After thoroughly studying the four gospels, he concluded that one of the most documented evidence of any historical event is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It will stand any court scrutiny.

What did he do with the truth that he discovered?
He became a believer in Jesus Christ in the process of his investigation.

(We’re guessing he stopped putting down the Christians in his law classes after that).

SOURCE: www.josh.org
PHOTO: Wikimedia Commons
File:SimonGreenleaf.jpg
“The resurrection is one of the best established facts of history.”

Dr. Simon Greenleaf
Harvard Law School founder
6. There are more than 9,000 religions in the world. Can you name some of them?

7. What sets Christianity uniquely apart from all other religions?

The most significant difference between them is that among all the founders of these religions, only Jesus Christ claimed to be the Messiah, the Son of God. He was the only one who died for our sins and rose again from the dead to PROVE that He is who He claimed to be.

Our faith is not blind faith! Jesus Christ is a historical person; He lived. He died. And He rose again. Even our calendar is a silent but powerful testimony to the reality of Jesus Christ.

B.C. Means “Before Christ”
A.D. Means “Anno Domini”

Anno Domini is Latin for “The Year of Our Lord” referring to the years after the birth of Jesus Christ.
“Do you realize that the Christian faith is the only faith that talks about REDEMPTION? Not just forgiveness --- redemption. Redemption that comes from the grace of Christ. Other religions talk about the longing for it, the hope for it, but never, ever the PROVISION for it.”

Dr. Ravi Zacharias
“Jesus Among Other Gods”
Write down, scribble key words, draw symbols for key ideas or create a mind map of Ephesians 2:8-10 below.

8. According to these verses, how are we saved?

9. Are we saved as a result of good works? What is the role of good works in salvation?

Grace is God’s undeserved favor.
We don’t deserve salvation and we cannot earn it ever.
It is a GIFT from God that can be received by FAITH.

We are NOT saved by doing good works.
We are saved FOR good works.
Good works is the FRUIT,
not the ROOT of our salvation.
Read about Paul’s life in Galatians 1:13-17.

Some words that described Paul are written below. Try to guess the first word of every phrase by rearranging the letters.

IRELIGOSU PERSON  SEALZOU LEADER
LOFLOWER OF TRADITION  CUTEORPERS OF CHRISTIANS

There is nothing wrong with being a religious person, but Jesus did not come to establish a religion.

The essence of Christianity is not a religion, but a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Write down, scribble key words, draw symbols for key ideas or create a mind map of Galatians 1:10-12 below:

10. From where did Paul receive the gospel that he preached?
11. Encircle the source of the gospel preached by Paul:

   Men  Jesus Christ

Read Mark 7:9.
*Following traditions is okay UNLESS they go against God’s word.*

God will not contradict Himself. If there is a conflict between the Bible and tradition, God’s word is the authority to follow, not tradition.

Write down, scribble key words, draw symbols for key ideas of Galatians 1:15–16.

12. Below are some words that describe Paul after his encounter with Jesus (see Acts 9:1-19). Again, try to guess the first word of every phrase by rearranging the letters.

   EST APART  ALCLDE BY GRACE
   REARCHPE OF THE GOSPEL
From a persecutor of Christians, he became the preacher of the gospel!

*Paul was changed by God’s grace when he met Jesus.*

*It does not matter what your past is.*

*God’s grace can forgive you and save you!*

Paul killed Christians but God saved and changed him by grace when Paul believed in Jesus Christ. And God can change you too.

Read Galatians 1:18-20.

13. Who among the apostles did Paul see in Jerusalem?


15. How did Jesus have a brother?

*Joseph kept Mary a virgin until Jesus was born but afterwards they had other sons and daughters.*
Read, write down, scribble key words or draw symbols for key ideas of Galatians 1:22-24

16. How did people respond when they saw changes in Paul’s life?

This is what Paul experienced...
No one can change the true gospel but the true gospel will change us!
Doodle/draw your thoughts or create a mind map on what you discovered from Galatians 1 about the true gospel. Share your output with a partner and/or to your entire small group.
Journal your thoughts on what you discovered from Galatians 1 about the true gospel. Share with your small group members a summary of what you wrote down.

What impacted you from the lesson you just learned?

Describe the gospel of Christ in your own words.

Why do you think many people have a wrong understanding of the true gospel?
Do one or do all of these action points for life transformation!

Choose one of the “tear-out” sections of the workbook and post its contents on Facebook, Twitter or text it to a group of your friends.

Read Galatians 2x in a week. Read it out aloud at least once.
Hint: Use an easy to-read version of the Bible like NASB, NIV, ESV or NLT.

Display the “tear-out” sections from the workbook in a highly-visible place at home and at work.

Hint: Whenever someone asks you about it, share what you learned from this study about the true gospel of Jesus Christ.
“I AM the TRUTH...”

Jesus Christ
John 14:6
Spot the Difference
How well can you recognize variation of the real thing? Try this fun activity to find out!

By pairs, work on spotting the difference between the two pictures below. Draw a mark on the second drawing to indicate where the differences are from the first drawing. Give yourselves 5 minutes to complete this activity. (Turn to Appendix A to check for the correct answers.)
Share your answers to the following questions in your small group:

1. What helped you spot the differences?

2. What made it difficult for you?

Just for FUN! Here are more Spot-the-Difference materials for you to enjoy on your next weekend off! (Turn to Appendix B for the correct answers.)
In Galatians 1, Paul defined the true gospel strongly stating that no one can change the gospel without being “ACCURSED”.

In Chapter 2...
Paul continues to defend the gospel by mentioning his experiences with the pillars of the church.

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Write down, scribble key words, draw symbols for key ideas or create a mind map of Galatians 2:1–5:

I. Paul’s Experience with the Leaders

With a partner or with the rest of the small group, discuss and share your answers to the following:

1. Why did Paul go back to Jerusalem after 14 years?

2. What was the problem he sought to resolve?
In Jerusalem, Paul sought confirmation from the church leaders that what he was preaching was indeed the gospel.
During Paul’s time, people were saying, “It’s not enough to put your faith in Jesus – that’s too simple, it’s not enough!”

The Great Debate:

Faith in Jesus
+ nothing
= Salvation ➔ resulting in good works

Faith in Jesus
+ good works
(rituals, tradition, obeying the law)
= Salvation

Which side of the debate are you on? Write down your reasons for picking your side:
3. What can we learn from Galatians 2:5?

An illustration about knowing the real thing:

At the NBI agents’ training to learn how to detect counterfeit peso bills, their trainees have to go to the Central Bank and handle real bills for one week. After that, they can easily detect counterfeit bills!

If you focus on the truth in the Bible, when somebody comes and teaches you something that is not true, you will know it is counterfeit immediately.

Read, write down, draw/illustrate key ideas or make a mind map of Galatians 2:6–10:
4. What was the conclusion of the apostles in Jerusalem concerning the gospel that Paul taught?

Notice that the church leaders only asked Paul to remember the poor, which he says was “the very thing I was eager to do.”

_The gospel of grace does not neglect good works!_

Instead, the Bible is saying “You are saved by faith in Christ, not by any other additional effort/activity on your part. But now that you are saved, you are to do good works to give glory to our Heavenly Father.”
II. Paul’s Encounter with Peter

Read, write down, draw/illustrate key ideas or make a mind map of Galatians 2:11-14:

5. What was the situation with Peter that Paul had to deal with? Optional Group Activity: Ask for volunteers to act out the scene in Galatians 2:11-14. No need to memorize lines, just have a narrator do a voice over.
No leader is infallible. They all need to be accountable to others.
6. Why do you think Paul corrected Peter in public rather than in private?

**Note**

*Principle:*

*Peter as a leader of the church set a bad example (hypocrisy) to others when he compromised the truth of the gospel. When a sin is...*

*Public, the offender has to be corrected publicly.*

*Private, then the correction has to be done privately.*

7. Why do you think this ought to be so?

8. If you were in Peter’s place, how would you respond?

9. How did Peter respond to Paul’s correction? See 2 Peter 3:15 for a look into Peter’s motivation for responding the way he did.
III. Paul’s Explanation of the Gospel

Read, write down, draw/illustrate key ideas or make a mind map of Galatians 2:15-16.

10. How is a man justified?

“Justified” means to be declared “NOT guilty.”

11. How did Paul describe himself and the kind of life he was living?

12. What was Paul’s conclusion about the gospel?
“No longer I but Christ!”

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20
Doodle/draw your thoughts or create a mind map on what you discovered from Galatians 2 about the true gospel. Share your output with a partner and/or to your entire small group.
Journal your thoughts on what you discovered from Galatians 2 focusing on Paul’s experience with the leaders, his encounter with Peter and his explanation of the gospel. Share with your small group members a summary of what you wrote down.

What impacted you from the lesson you just learned?

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What do you think Paul meant when he said, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live”?

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How does it look like if you live by faith for Him who died for you and gave Himself for you?

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1. Think back on what the apostle Paul did during his encounter with the apostle Peter in Jerusalem. In his case, Paul defended the integrity of the gospel of Jesus Christ by confronting Peter of his wrong attitude and action towards the Gentile believers. Paul regarded God’s truth as more important and as the standard for right attitude and action over Peter’s position as a church leader.

In your case, whose authority and whose standard do you uphold above all else in matters of what you believe in, your attitude and actions?

When our human leaders’ actions or teachings go against God’s truth found in the Bible, who do you think should be our final authority? (See Acts 4:15-21 for an example of how the apostles acted under a similar situation).

Now search your heart and check if there is something that you believe in, or an attitude that you have or a behavior that clearly contradicts the message of the true gospel. What will you do about it within the next 7 days?
2. **Random Acts of Kindness**  
*Time Frame: 3 weeks*

As Paul and the apostles wanted to make sure that the followers of Jesus not neglect the practical needs of others as they spread the true gospel, we also ought to show kindness to others as we share our faith in Christ to them.

**A. Pray** – Make a list of five people who you want to pray for within the next 3 weeks that they may know Jesus as Savior and become Christ-committed followers.

Pray for them beyond the three weeks!

**B. Care** – Think of at least one act of kindness that you can show to each of these 5 people. If they are married and/or have children, it would be a good idea to include their family members in your plan. Examples of acts of kindness are:

1. Get to know them and their concerns over a meal or coffee and pay for their share.
2. Give them a small gift or token that you know will encourage them or brighten their day.
3. Give them a ride to a Sunday worship service if they agree to visit CCF with you.
4. Help them address a concern at work or in a relationship.
5. Give a bag of groceries.

Do these acts of kindness to your five family members, friends, or colleagues not only for three weeks but for the rest of the year!

**C. Share** – As you interact with the people you are praying and caring for, maximize opportunities to share the simple truth of the gospel to them. As you get involved in their lives, you will be able to not only help meet practical needs but their deepest and greatest need – to be forgiven of their sins and be reconciled with God who loved them and gave Himself to them.
| Use the cards below to give along with gifts, tokens, food items, etc. to the people you have in your Pray-Care-Share list. |
|---|---|---|
| **And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.**  
Romans 8:28 (ESV Bible) | **And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.**  
Romans 8:28 (ESV Bible) | **And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.**  
Romans 8:28 (ESV Bible) |
| **Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**  
Matthew 11:28 (ESV Bible) | **Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**  
Matthew 11:28 (ESV Bible) | **Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**  
Matthew 11:28 (ESV Bible) |
| **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.**  
Psalm 23:1-3 (ESV Bible) | **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.**  
Psalm 23:1-3 (ESV Bible) | **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.**  
Psalm 23:1-3 (ESV Bible) |
| **“We love because He first loved us.”**  
1 John 4:19 (ESV Bible) | **“We love because He first loved us.”**  
1 John 4:19 (ESV Bible) | **“We love because He first loved us.”**  
1 John 4:19 (ESV Bible) |
| **“Every good and every perfect gift comes from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”**  
James 1:17 (ESV Bible) | **“Every good and every perfect gift comes from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”**  
James 1:17 (ESV Bible) | **“Every good and every perfect gift comes from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”**  
James 1:17 (ESV Bible) |
You would need a pencil or pen for part A of this activity. For part B, you would also need a round-bottomed object such as a paper cup or a glass jar or bottle.

A. Draw a perfect circle in the space below.

How did you do with this activity? If you were to evaluate the circle you made according to the pattern given, how would you rate your work?

1  - Way below the standard based on the pattern
2  - Below the standard based on the pattern
3  - Perfectly according to the pattern

My rating: __________________
B. Find an object with a round bottom. Use it to do the same exercise that you did in the previous page in the space below:

1. How did you do this time? Again, use the scale below to evaluate your work:
   - 1: Way below the standard based on the pattern
   - 2: Below the standard based on the pattern
   - 3: Perfectly according to the pattern

   My rating: ____________________

2. What difference (if any) did the round-bottomed object make in your ability to draw a circle? Why do you think this was so?
Doing something becomes much easier when we have a model or pattern of what we want to accomplish.

In this 3rd session of our Galatians book study, we will look at several things including the life of Abraham, who is a model to us of what it means to live by faith.
In Galatians 3, Paul continues to defend the Gospel by pointing to the experience of the Galatians, the experience of Abraham, and by citing the Doctrine of Law and Faith and the purpose of the Law.

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I. The Experience of the Galatians

Write down Galatians 3:1-5 below, or scribble down key words or phrases, doodle symbols that represent major ideas, or make a mind map.
1. Based on the verses, why did Paul call the Galatians foolish?

2. Paul asked the Galatians the following questions. If the apostle Paul were to ask you the same questions, what answers would you give?

   *Paul: “Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard (the gospel)?”*

   *You:*

   *Paul: “After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to finish (the Christian life) by human effort?”*

   *You:*
Paul: “Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by your observing the law or by your believing what you heard (the gospel)?”

You:

To summarize, Paul was asking: “Is the Christian life based on legalism (following the law—doing a list of do’s and don’ts) or is it based on faith (in Jesus who lives in every true Christ-follower)?
The Christian life is by FAITH.
It BEGINS by faith.
It CONTINUES by faith.
And it ENDS by faith.
The Christian life is lived by faith ALL THE WAY.
Read Ephesians 1:13-14. Write down key words or phrases, doodle symbols that represent major ideas.

3. According to Ephesians 1:13-14, how do we receive the Holy Spirit and what happens to us when we receive Him?

When you hear the gospel and you believe it,
you are SEALED by the Holy Spirit
who is given to us as a pledge of our inheritance in Christ.

The word ‘sealed’ is a business term. A document is not legal until it is sealed. Another meaning of the word sealed is “branded”. As a rancher brands his cattle to identify them, God marks us with the Holy Spirit as belonging to Christ.

The word ‘pledge’ means that the Holy Spirit is given to us as a down payment or a guarantee of our salvation (our inheritance).

In the experience of the Galatians, they received the Holy Spirit by faith, experienced miracles by faith, lived the Christian life by faith but then returned to trying to be righteous by their good works.
II. The Experience of Abraham

Read Galatians 3:6-9. Write down key words or phrases, doodle symbols that represent major ideas.

Who’s Who?

Name:
ABRAHAM

Curriculum Vitae:

• **Founder** of the Jewish faith and nation
  (Genesis 17:5; 2 Chronicles 20:7)
• **Model** for Christians for a life of faith
  (Hebrews 11:8-12)
• **Friend** of God
  (Isaiah 41:8; 2 Chronicles 20:7)
4. Paul used Abraham as an example of someone who was declared righteous through faith in God. How did Abraham show his faith in God? Write down in big, bold letters the key word in Galatians 3:6 below:

Use the key word in the blank space to complete the phrase that described what Abraham did so that he was declared righteous by God:

Galatians 3:6

“Abraham ________ God and, because of this, God declared him RIGHTEOUS.”
Abraham and Sarah had no children because Sarah was unable to have children. When Abraham was 75 years old, God told him,

“I will make you a great nation... and in you all of the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Ten years passed and Abraham and Sarah still did not have a son but God promised that Abraham’s descendants would be as many as the stars in the heavens.

Abraham believed God and God considered him as righteous.

This is one of the clearest passages in the Old Testament that shows that salvation is by FAITH and not by any good thing we do!
“And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 12:3
The faith of Abraham was not based on FEELINGS or EXPERIENCE; it was based only on the PROMISE of God.

5. How could Abraham be a blessing to the entire families of the earth? (Read Matthew 1:1-17 to see how the Messiah is connected to Abraham)

Jesus was the great, great, great, great, great grandson of Abraham. He was the Messiah who came from Abraham! Through Jesus, ALL families on earth will be blessed as God promised Abraham.

It does not matter what your RACE is, or what RELIGION you come from. If you BELIEVE in JESUS as your Lord and Savior, you will be blessed with eternal life (see 1 John 5:11-13). That is what the Bible means when it says that in Abraham, all the nations will be blessed.

Paul’s Conclusion from Abraham’s Example:

“So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.” (Gal.3:9).
III. The Doctrine of Law and Faith
Read Galatians 3:10-14. Write down key words or phrases, doodle symbols that represent major ideas.

Have you kept all of the 10 Commandments? What happens if you break even just one of them? (See James 2:10).

If you break one of the Ten Commandments (the Law), you are considered guilty of breaking all of the Laws.

To pass God’s standard you must fulfill it 100%, not 99%.

This is also true of the Philippine Penal Code. If a person commits just one crime, he or she is called a “criminal”. It’s the same with breaking any of the Ten Commandments.

If you break just one commandment of the loving and holy God, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, you become an offender of God.

For sure, you have broken at least one of the Ten Commandments. So, if you want to go to heaven through your own efforts by obeying the Law, sadly...

You won’t make it.
8. What else can we learn about the Law? Read aloud Galatians 3:11-12.

No one will be JUSTIFIED by the Law because the righteous man shall live by FAITH.

The Law brings a curse because we cannot obey it.


Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law.


Jesus became a curse for us.

When Jesus died on the cross for all our sins, He became a curse for us. He did this so that we might be redeemed from the curse of the Law.
“To be redeemed from the curse of sin means to be ‘saved from the penalty, power, presence and most importantly the pleasure of sin.’”

A. W. Pink
The **blessings** of Abraham also became ours when we put our **faith in Jesus Christ** who is the seed of Abraham. See Galatians 3:14-16.

**When Christ became a curse,**
**He not only took away our curse,**
**but the blessings of God became ours!**

Read Galatians 3:15-29. Write down key words or phrases, doodle symbols that represent major ideas.
11. What does this passage tell us about the Law and the promise of God?

   The Law was given about 430 years
   AFTER the promise of God to Abraham
   to bless him because of his faith,
   and to bless the world through his descendant (his seed).
   The Law DOES NOT invalidate God’s promise!

12. If obeying the Law cannot save us, what then was the purpose of the Law? Read Galatians 3:19-25.
The Law was given because of **SIN** until the **SEED**, Jesus Christ, had come.

The Law shows us that we are **SINNERS**.

*Read Romans 3:20.*

In your own words, write down what Romans 3:20 says.

*If there was no Law, we would not even know that we have sinned against God! We would not know that we are sinners who need a Savior.*

For example, if there were no speed limits, how will you know that you are guilty of over-speeding? You will not!
The Law brings **judgment**.  
*See Galatians 3:22 and Romans 3:19-20.*

The Ten Commandments (the Law) was given to **protect** us. 
We were placed “under guard” of the Law. 
*See Galatians 3:23.*

Would you want to live and raise a family in a society where there are no laws? Imagine what kind of an environment that would be. There is one word that can describe it — **barbaric**.

The Ten Commandments does not impart righteousness, but it GUIDES us. It tells us what is right and what is wrong. It prevents us from becoming bad.

The Law is also our **Tutor** to lead us to **Christ**.

---

**What does a “tutor” do?**

Paul uses the Greek word “**pedagog**”. This is like the **caretaker** – someone who will bring the child to the teacher, then watch over the child, and then, when the child is finished learning, brings the child back to its parents. The Law is a **caretaker** to bring you back to **Christ**.

---

The Law tells us that God is **holy**.

How do we know that God is holy? We know because the Ten Commandments, the Law, reflect the character of the Lawgiver, God.
Do this simple exercise: reflect on the implication of each of the Ten Commandments as to how the Law reveals the character of a holy Law Giver, God. Some examples are given and you can do some during your group meeting and some on your own later:

1st Commandment
Exodus 20:3
“You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Implication:
This reveals that God wants an all-exclusive relationship with His people. God is holy, set apart from any other “gods”.

2nd Commandment
Exodus 20:4-6
“You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on earth beneath or in the water under the earth...”

Implication:

3rd Commandment
Exodus 20:7
“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.”

Implication:
4th Commandment  
Exodus 20:8-11  
“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

Implication:  
God wants us to set apart a day for rest every week.

5th Commandment  
Exodus 20:12  
“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.”

Implication:  
God values family relationships highly. He wants us to respect those in authority over us.

6th Commandment  
Exodus 20:13  
“You shall not murder.”

Implication:

7th Commandment  
Exodus 20:14  
“You shall not commit adultery.”

Implication:
8th Commandment
Exodus 20:15
“**You shall not steal.**”

Implication:
God recognizes and respects private property.

9th Commandment
Exodus 20:16
“**You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**”

Implication:
God hates lying because God is a God of truth

10th Commandment
Exodus 20:17
“**You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**”

Implication:
God has shown us that He is **HOLY**
through His perfect standard
as spelled out in the Ten Commandments.

Now take a look at your own life
on the basis of God’s Law.
How do you measure up?
Have you fulfilled all of them perfectly?

When you evaluate yourself
according to God’s perfect standard,
you will begin to realize that you
have a BIG, BIG problem —
you cannot fulfill God’s standard of holiness
on your own effort!

Since each command always involves another person,
including God himself,
when we violate the Law, we violate others,
and ultimately, we violate the holy Law Giver.

Violating God involves serious consequences.
*See Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23.*
WE ALL NEED A SAVIOR. WHO IS OUR SAVIOR?

JESUS.

When a person realizes that he is a sinner and that he can’t save himself, he will realize his need of a Savior.

IN SUMMARY:

The purpose of the Law is to show us we are sinners.

It is to bring judgment upon us.

It is to show that we cannot make it on our own.

It is to guide us to Christ to be our Savior.
13. How do we go to Jesus for him to be our Savior? (1 Corinthians 15:3–6)

**We go to Jesus by FAITH.**
Faith means you believe in your heart that Jesus died in your place to pay the penalty of your sins, and rose again from the dead.

14. What happens when we come to Jesus for him to be our Savior?

- You become a **CHILD** of God.
  Write down Galatians 3:26.

- You are **BAPTIZED** into Christ.
  Acts 16:30-33 describes the process that a person goes through as he puts his faith in Christ. Write down key words (hint: these are verbs) found in this process.
What happens first, baptism or believing in Jesus?

In the Philippines, many people are baptized while they are still babies and cannot decide for themselves – then, when they are older they can choose for themselves whether or not to believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

But in the Bible, it is always believe first and then be baptized.

Believe in Jesus first to be your Savior and Lord and THEN get baptized.

Baptism is a very meaningful act; it is a picture or a symbol of what happened to us when we trusted in Jesus as our Savior.

It shows that we have died with Christ in our sinful life and just as Jesus was raised from the dead, we are raised to a new life with Christ.

- We are all EQUAL in Christ.
  
  Read Galatians 3:28

Before Jesus came, there was discrimination between Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews). But in Christ, there are no more racial discrimination. Neither is there social discrimination for there is neither slave nor free man. Men and women are equal in Christ because there is no gender discrimination. All people are of equal value.
If you study ancient western and Asian civilizations, women were treated as third class citizens. When Jesus came, slowly but surely, He taught His followers to respect women.

- In Christ, men are not more valuable than women, and women are not more valuable than men.
- This does not mean that there are no more male-specific roles and female-specific ones.
- This just means that in the eyes of God, we are all equally important.

The Bible also does not say that in Christ, there is no more boss and employees. What the verse is saying is, because of Christ, the servant will even work harder to please his boss.

The boss, who is in Christ, will no longer mistreat the servant or employee. He or she treats them with respect and takes good care of those who work for him or her.

*Jesus made a difference in history.*
*He changed our world!*
*There is power in Jesus, power that is beyond the Law.*
CONCLUSION:
What the Law cannot do, the Gospel can do.

Salvation is by faith alone. The purpose of the Law is not to save us, but to bring us to Christ who can save us.

Never think that coming to Jesus gives you a license to sin all you want. On the contrary, if you come to Christ, your life will be transformed.

The desire to sin is replaced by a desire and the power to obey and please God.

“And if you belong to Christ you are Abraham’s descendant and heir according to the promise.”
Galatians 3:29

Believe in God’s promise that He has great blessings for you in Christ!
Doodle/draw your thoughts or create a mind map on what you discovered from Galatians 3 about the true gospel. Share your output with a partner and/or to your entire small group.
Journal your thoughts on what you discovered from Galatians 3 about the true gospel. Share with your small group members a summary of what you wrote down.

What truth impacted you the most from our study?

In your own words, explain the purpose of the Law in the life of someone who does not know Jesus yet as Lord and Savior. How about in the life of a believer/committed follower of Christ?

Give one difference between the Law and the gospel of Christ. How do you think this is relevant to your day-to-day life?
Do one or do all of these action points for life transformation!

**A. “10 for 10”**

Review your work on pages 90 to 92. Now take at least ten minutes to praise and worship God, our Law Giver for what the Law reveals about Him. Express your love and gratitude to Him through a simple prayer that comes from your heart.

For example:

**First Commandment:**

“**Heavenly Father,**
I praise You for You are the only true God and the only One worthy of our worship. I am so grateful that although You are God, and I am an imperfect human being, You love me as shown by your desire for a personal relationship with me.”

**B. Walk by Faith**

Follow the example of Abraham by taking a step of faith in an area of obedience to God’s Word.

Consider the following good things that God wants us to practice and plan out how you will obey God’s will. Look up God’s commands in your Bible and choose 2-3 that you will do within the next 7 days.
1. God’s command: Philippians 4:6

My Response: By faith, I will obey God by...

2. God’s command: 1 Timothy 2:1-4

My Response: By faith, I will obey God by...
3. God’s command: Luke 17:3-4

My Response: By faith, I will obey God by...

4. God’s command: 2 Timothy 4:2

My Response: By faith, I will obey God by...
5. **God’s command:** 2 Timothy 2:2

My Response: By faith, I will obey God by...
“RULES FOR THE GAME”
(For small groups of 4-5 members each)

Children from different cultures have favorite childhood games. These games have their own set of rules—most are unwritten yet understood and followed by the kids who play them in different parts of the country.

On page 107 are common Filipino games and for each game, members of your small group will pick one randomly. Members will then write down what they know are the rules for playing and winning the game that they picked.

Give yourselves 3 minutes to write down the rules then for the next 7 minutes, take turns reading aloud what you wrote down. See if you all agree on what the rules are!

(If there are members in your group who are from a different culture, have them share a common childhood game in their country and explain the rules to the group. Let them share after the Filipino games rules have been explained by other members of the group).

ACTIVITY PROCESS GUIDE

Did everyone agree on what the rules of the games were? We follow unspoken or unwritten rules as we go about in our day-to-day living. From childhood games to grown-up relationships, to our religious activities, we often operate based on what we believe to be the correct “rules”.

In certain ways, this is fine but in some areas of life, practicing something based on our subjective understanding or beliefs of the rules will lead to dire consequences. For example, even if we unknowingly violate provisions in country’s laws and Constitution because of our ignorance of them, we will not be spared from the consequences for breaking the law.
In a similar manner, we practice certain religious beliefs that we understand to be in accordance to God’s laws but in reality, are actually in violation of His will. What do you think will be the consequences for these violations?

Our lesson today in Galatians chapter 4 will help us know what God’s true requirement for our salvation is. Our hope is that you will be guided accordingly as you progress in your spiritual journey.

1. Prepare 6 small pieces of paper on which traditional Filipino games are written down. (See example below)
2. Fold pieces of paper so that the contents are hidden from view.
3. Have each member randomly pick a folded piece of paper.
4. Proceed according to the instructions provided in this section.

Reference: (No author cited)
http://larong-pinoy.weebly.com/all-traditional-filipino-gamescompilation.html. 5/12/1
In Galatians 4, Paul further distinguishes between those who pursue legalistic efforts towards salvation and those who are sons of God by faith in Jesus Christ.

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I. Understanding the Culture (*Galatians 4:1-3*)

Write down key words, ideas or phrases of Galatians 4:1-11.

1. Describe the Galatians’ view on religious practices in verses 9-10. Read Colossians 2:16-17 for your additional reference.

   Many people including the Jews teach that if you don’t do certain practices such as observe certain days as holy, or adhere to a certain dietary system (what you should eat or not eat), you will go to hell.

   For the Galatians, this kind of legalistic practice has become a *bondage* to them.

2. In verse 9, what did Paul say would be the result of the Galatians’ legalistic practice such as observing certain days or seasons as sacred or holy?
3. How did the Galatians’ legalism regarding festivals or special days that they observed for religious purposes blind them to the truth about Jesus?

In the Old Testament, the festivals pointed to the coming of Christ. This is what Colossians 2:17 refers to as “the substance belongs to Christ.”

But the Galatian Christians practiced the festivals without understanding their significance.

The problem of the Jews in Paul’s time was that they observed the rituals without knowing what they meant.

They had a tendency to be legalistic, just like many of us today!

Many people are sincere in their religious practices. They think that if they do that, they will earn points with God.

That is legalism — when you do certain things in order to earn merits with God so you can go to heaven.
II. **Significance and Benefits of Christ’s Death for Man**

To address the Galatians’ bondage to cultural and religious legalism, Paul underlines the significance of Christ’s coming and death for man.

Write down Galatians 4:4-5 in the space below:

4. **What is the significance of Christ’s coming and death for man according to Galatians 4:4-5?**
   - Why did God send Jesus to earth? v. 5
   - When did God send His Son into the world? v. 4
DEFINITION:

“To redeem by payment of a price to recover from the power of another, to ransom, buy off.”

Metaphor of Christ freeing the elect from the dominion of the Mosaic Law at the price of his vicarious (substitutionary) death

“To buy up, to buy up for one’s self, for one’s use to make wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good, so that zeal and well doing are as it were the purchase money by which we make the time our own.”

SOURCE:
http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/kjv/exagorazo.html
God sent His Son to redeem us!

God sent Jesus not earlier, not later, but at the RIGHT TIME.

When Jesus was born, there were certain characteristics of that period which made it conducive to spread the Gospel:

- For the first time in western civilization, there was a common language among the Roman conquered territories
- There was a common culture, which was that of Greece
- There was a road system which made travel faster and easier
- It was the time of “Pax Romana”, the peace that Rome maintained in order to rule its large empire
- The Jews have given up idolatry
God sent His Son at the right time!

SOCially. POLitically. ECONomically.

- What were the two conditions given in v. 4 under which our Savior was born?

Jesus was both human and divine.

“God sent forth His Son” means that Jesus was divine.

Jesus was “born of a woman” which means that Jesus was human.
Jesus was born of a woman’s seed.

God refers to Jesus as the “seed of the woman”, dealing Satan a fatal blow while Satan would only inflict on Him minor damage.
Jesus was born under the Law.

This simply means that Jesus complied with all the legal requirements found in the Scriptures. He came to live under the law, to obey all the requirements of the law so that He can redeem us from the bondage of the law.

Jesus also lived a perfect life...
Jesus took the form of a man, suffered and died on the cross for our sins.
III. The New Life as Sons of God by Faith

Write down Galatians 4:5-7 below:

5. What happens to you as you, by faith, accept Jesus as Lord and Savior? (See verse 5).

“By faith” simply means that you believe that Jesus died in your place to pay the penalty of your sins.

6. How do we know for sure that we are adopted as God’s children?
Two sources for our assurance:

**Objective Truth:**
God’s Word is our source of confidence that we are God’s children through faith in Christ. In other words, we can trust that what God says in His Word is true.

**Experiential Truth:**
God gives us the Holy Spirit (see verse 6), and we become intimate with God through the Spirit’s work in our lives. We experience the reality of God in our day-to-day living.

Two benefits of our adoption:

**Man has God as “Abba” which means “Daddy”**
See Romans 8:15-16

**Man becomes an heir of God**
See Romans 8:17
IV. Paul Appeals to the Galatians

Read Galatians 4:8-31

7. According to Paul, what would be the result of the Galatian believers turning back to their former legalistic practices (“weak and worthless elemental things”)?

Paul appealed to the Galatians not to turn back to their former way of life in different ways:

a. He tells them not to put back their chains of bondage based on legalism and rituals. (Verses 8-11)

At that time when they did not know God, they were slaves to their sin and to their legalistic attempts towards salvation.

Paul appeals by asking, “Why do you want to go back?”

b. He reminds them of their past experiences together. (Verses 12-15)

Paul goes back to the time when he preached the Gospel to them despite of a bodily illness. Despite the sickness, he was able to preach the Gospel to the Galatians for the first time.

[Bible scholars do not know what exactly was wrong with Paul. Some people say he had malaria. Some people say his eyes were problematic. The Bible says he was just sick.]
Just like in Paul’s situation...

**God will sometimes use problems and place us in certain circumstances to accomplish His purpose.**

c. Paul asks why the Galatian believers turned against their spiritual parent (Paul) and attached themselves to false, legalizing teachers. (See verse 6).

  - The Galatians grew up with a lot of beliefs: some right, others were wrong.
  - They were indoctrinated in certain ways.
  - They have gone through certain life experiences which influenced their way of thinking.

**They had to be reminded to re-examine what they believe. They had to go back to God’s Word.**

d. Paul uses the example of Abraham’s two sons, to contrast legalism (man’s work) and faith (in God’s promise). See verses 21-31.

8. How does the story of the birth of Abraham’s sons, Ishmael and Isaac in Genesis 17 and following illustrate the difference between legalism and faith? Fill-in the missing letters for the answers:

  - What is the result of legalism? __ L __ __ E__ __ R __
  - What is the result of faith? __ R __ E __ O __
Allegorically speaking, the two women who were mothers of Abraham’s two sons represent two covenants. One proceeding from Mount Sinai (where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments), is Hagar bearing children who are to be slaves. Ishmael was the son of the slave woman.

What about the opposite side? We find Isaac, the son of the free woman, Sarah who was the real wife, bearing children who are free.

On one hand is slavery and bondage, represented by Hagar and Ishmael. Then there is freedom, represented by Sarah and Isaac.

The new covenant gives freedom, freedom in Christ.

Isaac represents God’s people.

Paul asks us, how are we going to heaven? Is it by faith or is it by works? How did Abraham have his promised son, Isaac? Was it by faith in God’s promise or by his own efforts?

It was by FAITH.

9. How then do we become part of God’s family, adopted as His sons and daughters? Indicate your answer with a check mark.

____ “I become a child of God through my own efforts.”
____ “I become a child of God by His grace through faith in what Christ has done for me on the cross.”

*Being born again in God’s family is God’s work; through God’s power, by God’s intervention.*

*The way of legalism is man’s work; man’s efforts; man’s glory.*

*becoming a child of God is the work of God’s grace!*
Doodle/draw your thoughts or create a mind map on what you discovered from Galatians 4 about the true gospel. Share your output with a partner and/or to your entire small group.
Journal your thoughts on what you discovered from Galatians 4 about the true gospel. Share with your small group members a summary of what you wrote down.

What truth impacted you the most from our study?

Read Galatians 4:8.
What would be some examples today of “those who by nature are no gods” that many people are enslaved to because they believe these things, practices or persons/beings can save them or earn them merits with God?

Read Galatians 4:6-7, 9
Think about your own spiritual journey. How have you experienced the difference between being a slave to sin, and a child of God? What has changed in your life since you came to know Jesus as Savior and Lord?
Do one or do all of these action points for life transformation!

1. **Identify one “favorite” sin that you have.** If you are a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26), then you have been freed from the power of sin. Deal with this particular sin by applying God’s truth:

   **A. Confess** – Admit to God that you are still holding on to this sin even if you are already freed from its power.

   **B. Change** – Stop engaging in this sin. Replace wrong thinking, attitude or actions with what pleases God. What specific change will you make in your life to get rid of this particular sin?

   **C. Confide** – Find an accountability partner who will pray for you, check on your progress and like the apostle Paul to the Galatian Christians, remind you of God’s grace that saved you and redeemed you from the slavery of sin.

2. **Read ahead Galatians 5 at least 3 times in the next 7 days in preparation for Session 5 of our study.**
“FOR FREE”

Do this in pairs within your small group. List down as many things that you can have, or will probably have or experience for free in your lifetime.

Examples:
- Food tasting at groceries or with a catering company
- Seashells lying on the beach

Do this for 3 minutes and at the end of it, compare your list with the other pairs. The pair that has the most items listed down is the winner. Just for fun, you can award the winning pair with something that you got for free! :)

ACTIVITY PROCESS GUIDE

1. How would you describe your experience in coming up with a list of free things that you have, or can probably have in your lifetime? Was it easy or not to come up with the list? Why do you think that is so?

2. Sometimes, you can have something or experience something for free because someone else paid for it on your behalf. Have you ever experienced something like that? What have you received for free recently through the generosity of someone else? Describe the situation and the kind of person/s that made it possible for you to enjoy something for free.
In Galatians 5, Paul continues with his appeal that the Galatians leave their wrong view of salvation by works and conforming to the culture and customs of the time. The emphasis in this chapter is on freedom from the bondage of legalism that is in religious laws. True freedom is found in the righteousness of Christ. He then continues with manifestations of true freedom in Christ in the new life of the believer.

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Write down Galatians 5:1.

1. Paul says that those who are in Christ are freed from the **PENALTY** of sin. Do you recall what the penalty of sin is? (Romans 6:23).

2. *Read Romans 6:14*
   What does God command us to do in this verse?

3. What gave us freedom from the power of sin over us?
4. Read Galatians 5:3-4.

Legalism is depending on our religious efforts (obeying the commandments, observing certain practices, etc.) or good works to earn God’s favor so that He will grant us salvation. In the words of the apostle Paul, “you are seeking to be justified (declared righteous) by law.”

Paul emphasizes the need to stand firm and not return to being in bondage to legalism.

For a Christian, what does being enslaved to legalism reveal about us? Discover the answers in the following verses:

Galatians 5:3

If we are still enslaved to the idea of righteousness by our good works or religious practices, then this shows that we do not avail of God’s grace offered in the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Only faith in
Jesus allows us to receive God’s grace and justifies us from sin.

**Justification by LAW is NOT compatible with justification through FAITH.**

5. Write down Galatians 5:5-6.

What can we hope for by faith and through the Spirit? v.5

What is the reason for this hope? v. 6

According to v.6, does observance of the law (e.g. being circumcised) mean anything in terms of obtaining righteousness? Why?
Righteousness is the LOVE of GOD in and at work in us.

Two kinds of righteousness are described in the Bible. One is known as POSITIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS and the other one is known as PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS.

You have positional righteousness through Jesus Christ and what He has done for you on the cross. As a believer in Jesus, all your sins have been washed away by His blood. Positionally, in the eyes of God, you have been made righteous. You have been made holy by Jesus.

After you have been declared righteous by God through Christ (positional righteousness), the Bible says you now learn to live in righteousness. That is practical righteousness. It is living out what Christ has given you (His righteousness).

Practical holiness means you “walk in a manner worthy of your calling” (Ephesians 4:1) so you choose to do what pleases God and benefits others, not just yourself.

6. Read Galatians 5:7-12

Paul warns the Galatian believers about false teachers who hinder them from “running the race” of faith as well as disturbing or troubling them.

How do you think will listening and following false teachers affect our faith in Christ?
Here are some ways that false teachers will affect our faith in Jesus Christ:

- Our spiritual growth is **hindered**
  
  It’s possible that some Christians who have come to know the Lord many years ago have stopped growing and maturing in Christ because of the influence of false teaching.

- They promote a doctrine of obtaining salvation through our **efforts** and **good works**

- We **compromise** doctrinal truth which has damaging consequences

Check yourself! Are you under the influence of a false teacher?

In essence, Paul was telling the Galatians that they “were called to freedom.” True Freedom is the ability to say “no” to sin and “yes” to do God’s will.

True liberty is the **Power** to do what is **right** and to **refuse** to do what is **wrong**.

   
   What commands did Paul give for using the freedom we have in Christ? See verse 13.

   Negative command:

   Positive command:

   How do you think the whole Law (God’s commands) is fulfilled in this one command, “you shall love your neighbor as yourself”?  

The Gospel of Grace grants us TRUE FREEDOM — freedom to do what is RIGHT, freedom to LOVE OTHERS.

Christ has called us to live in true freedom by walking in love. When you walk in love, you are not dependent on feelings to do the right thing.

You use your freedom to choose to do the right thing even if you don’t feel like it.

You will choose not to do the wrong thing (sin) even if your feelings tell you to do so.

8. Write down Galatians 5:16-17.

How are we to walk in love every day? See verse 16.

What do these verses identify as the “deeds” of the flesh?

In contrast, what is the fruit of the Spirit?
The Christian life is not hard, it is IMPOSSIBLE!
You need God’s supernatural power to help you live the Christian life.
You need the power to obey God’s will every day, and this is why Christians are commanded to walk by the Spirit.

What does “walking in the Spirit” look like? If you walk in the Spirit, you...
(look up the verses and supply the answers):

1. “Will not _______________ the _______________ of the __________.” [Galatians 5:16]

2. Will experience constant conflict against the __________. [Galatians 5:17]

3. “…are ___________ by the Spirit, you are not under the __________.” [Galatians 5:18]

4. Your life will bear the _______________--love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. [Gal. 5:22-23]
Doodle/draw your thoughts or create a mind map on what you discovered from Galatians 5 about TRUE FREEDOM in Christ. Share your output with a partner and/or to your entire small group.
Journal your thoughts on what you discovered from Galatians 5 about the true gospel. Share with your small group members a summary of what you wrote down.

What truth made the most impact on you from our study?

In Paul’s time, there were those who believed that a non-Jewish man has to be circumcised first before he can truly be saved. In today’s study, we saw how Paul argued against that belief and identified that as legalism, or being in bondage to the Law.

In our time today, what would be an example of a religious practice that people say you need to perform in order for you to be saved? In other words, they believe that if you don’t do it, you cannot go to heaven. Is this something you personally believe in? Why or why not?

How would you apply the principle of true freedom in Christ within the week?
Do one or do all of these action points for life transformation!

1. Write down Galatians 5:22-25 once a day for one week. Use the space below for the first time you write it down.

2. Based on God’s command to “Love your neighbor as yourself” mentioned in Galatians 5:14, and based on the fruit of the Spirit given in Galatians 5:22-23, do one loving thing each day for 14 days for someone in your family, workplace, campus, neighborhood, etc. Write down what you plan to do and to whom will you direct it to.

Examples:

**Day 1: Love** - “I will show my parents I love them by taking them out to a nice meal for no reason at all tonight.”

**Day 2: Joy** - “I will choose to have a joyful attitude even in disappointing situations today and not be curt or discourteous towards others involved in these situations.”
By God’s grace through Jesus, this next two weeks, I will walk in the Spirit daily by: [Check box when done]

□ Day One  □ Day Eight

□ Day Two  □ Day Nine

□ Day Three  □ Day Ten

□ Day Four  □ Day Eleven

□ Day Five  □ Day Twelve

□ Day Six  □ Day Thirteen

□ Day Seven  □ Day Fourteen
In your small group of 4-5 members, take turns sharing about your “EXPERIENCE” action points last week. As you recall, your life application for session 5 was to show love to others by demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit to them. Choose one of the following discussion guide questions to help you get started. Have the tallest person in the group be the first to share, the second tallest the second to share, etc.

1. What was the most meaningful experience you had in the process of showing love to others? What made it especially meaningful for you?

2. How did the people you showed love to respond to your initiative? Describe 2 or 3 responses from different people.

3. How did it make you feel doing the action points from the Experience section of the lesson?
In Galatians 5 through 6, Paul describes how we are to live by the Spirit as against living in the flesh. The Christian life is walking by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells, works within, and transforms the believer. This is manifested in Christ-like character which is evidenced in our outward expressions and actions. Paul concludes by reminding the Galatians not to boast about, but to live out their redemption. This necessitates the abandonment of worldly ways and desires, embracing the work of Christ that is being completed in us.

**CHAPTER OUTLINE**

*with the latter part of Chapter 5 included*

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At times, believers in Jesus can be clueless as to what it means to live the Christian life. Here in this section of Galatians 5-6, we are given the “secret” to living the Christian life:

**Walking by the Spirit is living the Christian life.**

Read Galatians 5:16-18 aloud.

1. What is the key to not living according to sinful desires?

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_The flesh, or our old sinful nature, opposes the work of the Spirit in us. The Bible does not teach that once you come to Jesus as Savior and Lord, your old sinful nature is annihilated. Therefore there is a constant internal struggle to either live life according to fleshly desires, or to live by the Spirit of God and do what pleases the Lord._

**AGREE OR DISAGREE?**

- When you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.
- There is nothing that the Holy Spirit will ask you to do that is against the Law.

Briefly share your thoughts with your small group.
As you probably figured out, both statements above are true. To illustrate:

The law of God says

“Thou shall not commit adultery.”

When you are led by the Spirit, you will surely not commit adultery. Beyond that, you will keep yourself pure in thoughts.

“Thou shall not commit murder.”

When you are led by the Spirit, you will not murder, and beyond that, you will also learn to love people, even your enemies.

In Christ, you are no longer under the Law, you are above it which means your standard will be higher. You do not violate God’s laws but fulfill it beyond what the Law requires of you!

2. List down examples of “walking in the flesh” according to Galatians 5:19-21.

Lumped together, what is being described in the verses above is a lifestyle of consistent sinful or worldly attitudes and actions.

A person who lives according to fleshly desires...
Practices sexual sins
Practices spiritual sins
Practices societal sins

Warning:
If you continue to live according to your fleshly desires, the apostle Paul is saying that in all probability, you are not a REAL Christian.

The evidence of authentic Christianity is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
3. Identify the fruit of the Holy Spirit based on Galatians 5:22-23.

If your life shows the fruit of the Holy Spirit, how do you think will that affect your response to stressful situations or painful circumstances? How about when you are treated unfairly or unkindly?

The evidence of Christ-likeness is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the life of a true follower of Jesus.

- GENTLENESS
- LOVE
- PATIENCE
- GOODNESS
- FAITHFULNESS
- JOY
- PEACE
- KINDNESS
- SELF-CONTROL

4. Have you grown in Christ-likeness since you first came to know Jesus as Savior and Lord? In what ways are you growing or not growing more like Jesus? (See the different aspects of the fruit of the Holy Spirit).
5. Read, scribble or draw a mind map of Romans 8:9-11.

How is the Holy Spirit identified in these verses?

- The Spirit of ______________
- The Spirit of ______________

What does this tell us about who the Holy Spirit is?

The Holy Spirit is **NOT** a force.
- He has intellect.
  - He feels.
  - He wills.

He is the Third **Person** of the Trinity

The Holy Spirit is **GOD** Himself.

Based on Romans 8:9-11, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- “If you belong to a church, then you belong to Christ.”
- “If you are baptized, then you belong to Christ.”
- “If you have the Spirit in you, then you belong to Christ.”

*The Holy Spirit comes into your heart the moment that you believe in Jesus as your Savior and Lord. When you accept Jesus Christ into your heart, the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of Christ and who is the Spirit of God dwells in you.*
6. Read aloud John 16:5-10.
According to these verses, why was the Holy Spirit sent to us believers in Jesus Christ?

7. What truth makes it possible for every believer to live the Spirit-filled life?

**Note**

Being filled with the Holy Spirit simply means that you are controlled and empowered by the Spirit. This is not an option, but a command from God. Every believer is *indwelt* by the Spirit the moment he puts his faith in Christ. However, it is a tragic fact that not every believer is *filled* by the Spirit.

*Write down Ephesians 5:18.*
If a person is “filled” with alcohol, then he is under the control of the alcohol. So if you are filled with the Spirit, you are under the control of the Holy Spirit.

To be filled with the Spirit is **not passivity**. It is **active obedience** to Christ moment by moment. It is **not having “more”** of the Spirit. It is the **Holy Spirit having more** of you. It is the Spirit having **control of every aspect** of your life.

**The question is...**are you surrendered wholly and completely to the Spirit? **If not, what is keeping you from giving over the control of your entire life to Him?**

**Study the illustration** below of the Spirit-filled life or Christ-centered life.

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*Dr. Bill Bright, the late founder of Campus Crusade for Christ came up with this illustration to show a picture of what the Spirit-filled life looks like.*
8. How would you describe yourself based on the three kinds of men shown in the diagram? Why do you say so?

We all started as a natural man, without Christ and separated from God. We lived our lives according to our own priorities and desires because we did not know God’s will and did not have the power to obey God. The Holy Spirit did not dwell in us and therefore we were not filled with the Spirit either.

When we placed our faith in Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, we entered into a personal relationship with God. The Holy Spirit now dwells in us, and fills us. His power enables us to live according to God’s will moment by moment. Jesus reigns from the throne of our hearts. Our life bears the fruit of the Spirit as we grow in Christlikeness.

However, somewhere along the way, most Christians become carnal Christians—having a relationship with God through Christ but living as if Jesus was not Lord of our lives. There is a refusal to give up certain sins or completely surrender an area of life to God. Our behavior, attitudes and words are not different from those who do not have a relationship with Christ. We live powerless and purposeless lives since we are not empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit. Carnal Christians know Jesus as Savior but clearly remain self-centered. Some Christians may say they believe in Jesus, but may not have given the Spirit full control of their lives. Carnal Christians do not become more like Christ even if they have been believers for years.
9. What are we commanded to do in Ephesians 5:18?

When God commands us to do something, we can be sure that it is His will for us. If we ask anything in prayer according to His commands or will, then we can be absolutely sure that He will say “yes” to us.

10. Are you filled with the Spirit?

If you are not sure that you are, then it is time for you to be so, in accordance with God’s will. If you want to be filled with the Spirit, you can do so by faith—trusting that God will fill you with His Spirit because it is His will (command) that you be filled.

Have a few moments of prayer in your group. Individually and quietly, ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit as He commanded you to be filled.

“Our loving Heavenly Father, I desire to do Your will for my life because I believe that You love me and desire only the best for me. Please fill me with the Holy Spirit as You commanded me to be filled. By faith I thank You that I am now filled by the Spirit based on Your promise that You will answer my prayer in accordance to Your will. Help me to continually be controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit. By Your grace, I choose to do Your will for my life moment by moment as Your Spirit empowers me to do what pleases You. I ask these in Jesus’ name. Amen.
11. Read Galatians 6:9-10
Now that you are filled with the Holy Spirit, what is your part in living the Spirit-filled life?

We are called to respond by doing good to people, especially our brothers and sisters in the faith.
Doodle/draw your thoughts or create a mind map on what you discovered from Galatians 6 about living the Christian life. Share your output with a partner and/or to your entire small group.
Journal your thoughts on what you discovered from Galatians 6 about the true gospel. Share with your small group members a summary of what you wrote down.

What truth impacted you the most from our study?

In summary, how would you describe an authentic or real faith in Christ? What are some of the characteristics of the true gospel?

What are some marks of a true Christian? In what ways are these evident in your life?
End this study on Galatians with a time of prayer and commitment to grow in Christ-likeness, walking in the Spirit as a response to the gospel of truth you have received from God. You may write down your prayer below.

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Do one or do all of these action points for life transformation!

**PRACTICE SPIRITUAL BREATHING***
*(Adapted from Campus Crusade for Christ)*

As Christians walk in the Spirit moment by moment, we experience God’s guidance and power at work in and through us. We enjoy a loving and warm fellowship with our Heavenly Father as we pursue His purposes for us.

However, there may be times that we will sin and actively rebel against God’s will or passively resist the conviction of the Holy Spirit to repent or surrender a certain area of our lives. When that happens, we are taking back the control of our lives as carnal Christians. When we become aware of this and desire to repent and be restored to our fellowship with the Lord, we need to breathe spiritually.

**Exhale** – Confess your specific sin to God, claiming His promise in 1 John 1:9

**Inhale** – Humbly ask God to fill you once again with the Holy Spirit. By faith, apply His command in Galatians 5:18 and His promise in 1 John 5:14-15.

Remember that as a child of God, the Spirit never leaves you even if you sin, He still lives (dwells) in you. However, your sin prevents you from experiencing closeness with your Heavenly Father, you are no longer filled with the Spirit and do not experience His power working in and through you.

If in the process of walking in the Spirit you become aware of an area of your life that is displeasing to God and you repent of it right away, you have not rebelled against the Lord.
You have not taken over the control of your life because you have responded in repentance in obedience to His will. In this case, you can be assured that you are still filled with the Spirit and you simply keep on walking by faith in the Holy Spirit.

They key to walking in the Spirit moment by moment is OBEDIENCE to God’s will. This includes quick repentance of any sin that the Spirit may convict us of.

1. Take some time now to examine your life. Ask God to reveal anything that might be displeasing to Him and not consistent with the gospel of truth in you. Confess to Him any wrongdoing that He might reveal to you.

2. Share the truth about the Spirit-filled life including spiritual breathing to other believers this week.
WHAT’S NEXT?

You’re on to your next set of Bible-based lessons! Book 4: CCF DNA will give you the big picture of what Christ’s Commission Fellowship is “made up of”. You will discover our God-given mission, vision and core values. You will also learn about what it means to be meaningfully involved in CCF as a Christ-committed follower! We pray that you will have an exciting time of getting to know your spiritual family in CCF better through Book 4: CCF DNA.
APPENDIX A

ANSWER KEY TO SESSION 2 “EXPLORE”

Spot the Difference, p. 44
APPENDIX A

ANSWER KEY TO BONUS RESOURCE FOR SESSION 2 “EXPLORE”

Spot the Difference, p. 45