

GLC  ESSENTIALS

GALATIANS

Session 3

EXPLORE

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.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

SECTION	TOPIC
Verse 1 - 5	The Experience of the Galatians
Verses 6 - 9	The Experience of Abraham
Verses 10 - 14	The Doctrine of Law and Faith
Verses 15 - 29	The Purpose of the Law

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)

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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's Story of Faith

Genesis 12:1-4; 15:1-6, 17:5-7, 15-16; 18:11-14

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.

6. What is the Law referred to in verse 10? Write a summary of the Law below. (See Exodus 20:1–17).

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

Note

*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.

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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.

9. What did Christ do for us? Read Galatians 3:13-14 and write down the key idea/s in this passage.

Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law.

10. How did Jesus redeem us? See verse 13.

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.

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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”.

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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:

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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!

EXPRESS

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?

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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?

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Give one difference between the Law and the gospel of Christ. How do you think this is relevant to your day-to-day life?

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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

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

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2. God's command: 1 Timothy 2:1-4

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

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3. God's command: Luke 17:3-4

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

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4. God's command: 2 Timothy 4:2

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

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5. God's command: 2 Timothy 2:2

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

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