

Small Groups

Sermon Discussion Guide

August 31, 2025 | Galatians - Grace and Peace

Prayer

Take time before discussion to take prayer requests and pray for each member of the group that requests prayer.

1. Galatians 1:1–9 (NASB)

Read Out Loud:

"Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through human agency, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead)... I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is not just another account; but there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ."

Question 1: Why do you think people in Paul's day—and even today—are so easily drawn to “a different gospel”?

- *Guiding Thought:* Sometimes we prefer a message that feels easier, more appealing, or more self-reliant than grace.

2. Galatians 2:16 (NASB)

Read Out Loud:

"Nevertheless, knowing that a person is not justified by works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the Law; since by works of the Law no flesh will be justified."

Question 2: How do we subtly fall into the trap of relying on our “works” for approval with God rather than faith in Christ?

- *Guiding Thought:* This can show up in how we measure ourselves (church attendance, service, morality) rather than resting in Christ's finished work.

3. Galatians 5:13 (NASB)

Read Out Loud:

"For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love."

Question 3: How can Christian freedom be misunderstood or misused? What does genuine freedom in Christ look like in daily life?

- *Guiding Thought:* True freedom isn't about selfishness but about love and service.

4. Galatians 2:20–21 (NASB)

Read Out Loud:

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

Question 4: What does it practically mean to say, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me"? How should that reshape our identity and choices?

- *Guiding Thought:* Our lives are not our own anymore—Christ's life defines us, not our past, failures, or even successes.

5. Galatians 4:4–5 (NASB)

Read Out Loud:

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons and daughters."

Question 5: Why do you think Paul emphasizes that Jesus came at "the fullness of time"? What does it mean to you personally to be "adopted" as God's child?

- *Guiding Thought:* Adoption means belonging, security, and inheritance—our relationship with God is based on His choice, not our performance.

6. Galatians 3:13 (NASB)

Read Out Loud:

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.'"

Question 6: What does it stir in your heart to realize that Christ became a curse for you? How should that truth shape our gratitude and worship?

- *Guiding Thought:* This goes beyond forgiveness—it is Christ taking our place under judgment, displaying the depth of His love.

7. Galatians 3:2 (NASB)

Read Out Loud:

"This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?"

Question 7: How do we sometimes try to live the Christian life by "works" after beginning by faith? What's the danger in that?

- *Guiding Thought:* We can start with grace but slip into performance-driven faith, losing joy and relying on ourselves instead of the Spirit.

8. Galatians 5:16 (NASB)

Read Out Loud:

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."

Question 8: What does it mean to "walk by the Spirit" in practical terms? What daily habits or attitudes help you stay in step with Him?

- *Guiding Thought:* This means moment-by-moment dependence on the Spirit—through prayer, Scripture, and obedience—rather than relying on our own strength.