

Small Groups

Sermon Discussion Guide

September 14th, 2025 | Galatians

Prayer

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

Read Galatians 3:29-4:7 out loud as a group.

1. What does it mean to be heirs according to The Gospel? What do we inherit and how do we receive it?

As heirs, we receive God's promises. Not by our works, but through faith in Christ. We inherit eternal life, the Spirit, and adoption into God's family. Help the group see that this is about relationship and identity, not just "stuff" God gives.

2. Paul says before Christ we were like children or like slaves. How do you picture that? What are some ways people today still live like "slaves" even though they could be free?

Paul is contrasting immaturity and bondage with the freedom Christ brings. People today can still be enslaved by sin, approval of others, legalism, or guilt. Invite the group to use modern images or stories to bring the metaphor to life.

3. Think about your own spiritual journey. Have you ever had a season where you felt like you slipped back into "slave thinking" instead of living as a child of God? What did that look like?

This is a chance for vulnerability in the group. Allow for members to acknowledge times when they forgot God's grace and lived under pressure, fear, or shame. Encourage openness, but remind the group the goal is not to dwell in defeat but to point toward freedom in Christ.

4. When you hear Paul describe us crying out "Abba! Father!" What emotions or images does that stir in you? What difference does it make to you that you're not just forgiven, but adopted into God's family?

This phrase shows intimacy and closeness to God as a loving Father. Stress that adoption means belonging, security, and identity, not just pardon. Help the group to personalize how this truth changes their day-to-day faith.

Read Galatians 4:12-19

5. Paul urges, "Become as I am." He wasn't perfect, but he lived free in Christ. In your own story, what are some ways others can "see Christ in you" even through your flaws?

Paul's point is not perfection but authenticity and freedom in Jesus. Guide the group to share ways God's work in them is visible, even in weakness. Emphasize that Christ often shines brightest in imperfection.

6. Paul says, "Where then is that sense of blessing you had?" Have you ever noticed your own joy in the Christian life fading? What tends to drain your joy and what helps you regain it?

Sometimes joy fades when we shift focus to performance, comparison, or busyness. Encourage honesty here. As a leader, gently steer the conversation to how joy is renewed by Christ's presence and promises.

7. What causes us to sometimes desire what is counterfeit over what is true? How can we consistently stand firm instead of living fake?

Counterfeit truths often look easier, more popular, or immediately satisfying and we tend to be led into them because of pride, ego, and self righteousness. Draw out examples from the group (examples may be chasing approval, status, or comfort). Point the group to practices like Scripture, community, and prayer that help us stay rooted in Christ's truth.

8. What is one way we can all labor with each other to see Christ formed more in us this week?

Paul's heart was to see Christ formed in believers and that's our call too. Brainstorm practical ways to support each other: prayer, encouragement, accountability, or serving together. End on a unifying challenge that the group can carry forward.