

UNLOCK THE BOOK OF

# GALATIANS

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12-Lesson Bible Study · For Individual or Group Use

*Whether your group is made up of seasoned Bible readers or those new to the Scriptures, studying Galatians can truly transform your understanding of grace, freedom, and the power of the gospel.*

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*Each lesson follows the same format: Focus (opening discussion), Study (Scripture + questions), and Apply (personal reflection).*

# LESSON 1 — Galatians 1:1–10

## FOCUS

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1. How do you know if you can trust people in leadership positions, especially in the church?
2. Is it ever challenging for you to stand up for what is right? Explain.

## STUDY

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### Read Galatians 1:1–10

1. Who is the writer of the letter? Who are the recipients?
2. What is the tone of the letter? Why? What's the problem?
3. The church of Galatia was a young church and likely began during one of Paul's missionary travels (Acts 13 and 14). The people initially heard and accepted the gospel message but not long after succumbed to false teachers and began believing a distorted gospel message. **Paul will expand on his testimony, but in the first few sentences of the letter, how does Paul describe himself (v. 1–2)? Why might this description be important given the situation of people believing other teachers who are teaching wrongly?**
4. In the greeting portion of his letter (v. 1–4), Paul recites key doctrinal truths about God the Father and Jesus the Christ that are significant components of the gospel message. **What do you learn about God and Jesus from his opening statement? Considering the wrong teaching of the gospel that the churches are accepting, why do you think he placed these facts at the beginning of this letter?**
5. In other letters that Paul writes to churches, he includes a section for prayer and thanksgiving for the church immediately following his greetings. **How is this letter different (v. 6)? What might that reveal to you about the severity of the situation the Galatians are in?**
6. The Greek word for “deserted” in verse 6 means “to transfer one’s allegiance.” It is a term most often used to describe a soldier who revolts or deserts or for those who change sides in politics or philosophy. **Who are they deserting? Why is this an appropriate description for them?**

7. In verse 7, Paul says that there are some who are bringing trouble and distorting the gospel message. The Greek word “distort” can also be translated as “pervert” or “to turn.” At the time, false teachers, called Judaizers, were convincing the church that they needed to become Jewish and follow the Messianic laws in order to be made right with God. They were distorting the gospel message to be work based, not faith based. **How do you know if you are part of a church “perverting” the gospel message?**
8. **What does Paul say twice about teachers who preach a gospel contrary to the one Jesus spoke (v. 8–9)? Why is this such a big deal to him – is he overreacting?**
9. A popular view in our world is that there are many ways to God and that the gospel message changes from year to year. **How would you argue against this using Paul’s perspective?**
10. **Why do you think Paul included verse 10; what does it have to do with the current situation? What is challenging about this statement for you? How can you overcome that challenge?**

## APPLY

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1. **What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.**
2. **What should you pray for based on this passage?**
3. **What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?**

### REFLECT & CONNECT

*Paul’s bold defense of the true gospel in Galatians 1 reminds us that the message of grace is worth protecting. As you reflect on this lesson, consider: Are there any areas of your life where you have allowed a distorted view of the gospel to take root? How can you return to the truth that Jesus alone saves?*

## LESSON 2 — Galatians 1:11–24

### FOCUS

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1. Do you believe people can really change who they are? Explain.
2. How can a Christian's testimony be helpful when sharing the gospel message?

### STUDY

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1. **Review:** What is the reason for Paul's writing to the church (1:6–7)?

#### | Read Galatians 1:11–17

2. Paul is defending the gospel he originally preached to the churches because false teachers claim that his message of salvation is wrong. **Who is Paul saying he did not receive the revelation of the gospel from, and who did he receive it? Why is this especially important for him to note, given the conflict?**
3. **What evidence does Paul give for trusting that the gospel message he preached to the churches was not invented by man, handed down by traditions, nor his own made-up message?**
4. **What background information does Paul give about his life before Christ (v. 13–14)? How does this part of his testimony add weight to why his gospel came from God alone?**
5. **What was Paul's changing point (v. 15–16)? What do you learn about God from Paul's testimony?**
6. **How do you know Paul was convinced of what he had heard from God?**

#### | Read Galatians 1:18–24

7. Paul did not completely avoid other believers at the beginning of his Christian walk. However, he makes a point to say that his contact was limited. **Why is this important evidence to his claim that the gospel message was not given to him by man? Is Paul, therefore, saying that you should isolate yourself from other believers? Explain.**
8. Paul's revelation of who Jesus is as Lord and Savior was spoken directly from Jesus himself. Today, God reveals himself most directly to us through His Word, the scriptures. **How can you use the scriptures to exercise wisdom and discernment when deciding whom you allow to have spiritual influence over you?**
9. **Given Paul's reputation, how might he have expected the churches to respond to his conversion? How did they respond (v. 24)? Why do you think that is?**

- 10.** Paul uses his testimony as evidence to defend the gospel. Why is that an effective tactic? **On a scale of 1–10 (1 being not confident, 10 being very confident), how prepared do you feel to share your testimony with someone? Why?**

### APPLY

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- 1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.**
- 2. What should you pray for based on this passage?**
- 3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?**

#### REFLECT & CONNECT

*Paul's radical transformation — from persecutor of Christians to passionate defender of the gospel — is a powerful testimony to God's grace. How has your own story been shaped by an encounter with Jesus? Who in your life needs to hear it?*

# LESSON 3 — Galatians 2:1-10

## FOCUS

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1. Who do you go to when you have a spiritual question? Why them?
2. How can you support other Christians and the ministries God calls them to, even if you are not specifically called to be involved?

## STUDY

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1. Review: What is the reason for Paul's writing to the church (1:6-7)?
2. Review: What evidence is Paul giving to defend why the churches should believe the gospel message he originally presented and which they had once received in faith (1:11-12)?

### Read Galatians 2:1-10

3. As Paul continues to give his testimony about how he received the gospel, **why does he say he went to Jerusalem fourteen years after encountering Jesus (v. 1-2)? Why would this detail be helpful evidence for why the churches should trust the gospel message he taught them?**
4. The false teachers (Judaizers) who were distorting the gospel (1:7) were Jewish Christians who claimed that in order for non-Jewish people to be Christians, they must first become Jewish. One of the ultimate signs that you were Jewish was the act of circumcision for a male. However, the new covenant gifted by Jesus is about faith and not works. **With this being said, what was Titus not forced to do by the original apostles (v. 3)? Why is Paul including this detail?**
5. **How is the situation with the churches in Galatia similar to what Paul has experienced firsthand (v. 4-5)? How does Paul describe these false brothers? Think about the context, what freedom are they attempting to take away from Christians?**
6. Acts 15:1-11 describes the situation Paul alludes to in more detail. Read the passage and discuss what you learn about the situation. **What was the problem (v. 1)? How did they handle the dispute (v. 6-7)? What was the verdict between the differing messages (v. 11)?**
7. **Paul went to the apostles to confirm the gospel message he proclaimed. How did the apostles feel about Paul's preaching (v. 6-7)?**
8. **What was the only difference between Paul's ministry and the other apostles (v. 7-9)? What does this teach you about how God works?**

9. The apostles perceived the grace given to Paul from God (v. 9). Why do you think the grace in his life moved the apostles to offer fellowship to Paul more than his gifts of intellect or persuasive preaching skills? How does this detail add to the evidence of a faith-based gospel?
10. How would you answer someone who says the gospel message needs to be updated to match the changing times and needs of the culture?

#### APPLY

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1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.
2. What should you pray for based on this passage?
3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?

#### REFLECT & CONNECT

*Paul sought accountability and confirmation for the gospel he preached. This models a posture of humility we all need. Who are the people in your life who help you stay anchored to the truth of Scripture?*

# LESSON 4 — Galatians 2:11–21

## FOCUS

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1. Do you usually avoid conflict or embrace it? Explain.
2. How do you know when a matter is important enough to speak up against or not? What examples can you think of?

## STUDY

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1. Paul is stacking evidence for the churches in Galatia to trust the gospel message he initially presented to them and not the false teaching of the Judaizers. **Review: What are some reasons he has given to trust him over the false teachers so far?**

### Read Galatians 2:11–14

2. Galatians 2:11 reveals a conflict between Paul and the apostle Peter (Cephas). **What was Peter doing wrong? Why do you think Paul thought what Peter was doing was such a big deal? How might the church today be negatively affected if Paul did not confront Peter?**
3. Give examples of how the fear of people or desire to fit in tempts people nowadays to act contrary to God's Word. How can you avoid these temptations?
4. How did Peter's actions influence other believers (v. 13)? What lesson can you take away from this?
5. How do you know if a situation is big enough to speak up about?
6. False teachers may have tried to undermine Paul's authority by saying he is not a true apostle but simply a student of the original apostles. **How does Paul's interaction with Peter prove that he has apostolic authority, too?**

### Read Galatians 2:15–16

7. In verse 15, Paul explains that he and Peter were both born into the Jewish nation and, therefore, had the advantage of being part of God's people through the old Mosaic laws, unlike the "Gentile sinners" who were born outside of God's family. He then explains how Jesus expands his family through justification, which means "to be declared righteous." **According to verse 16, what justifies sinful people, and what does not justify them?**

## Read Galatians 2:17–21

8. In verse 17, Paul addresses a question that his accusers claim is a fault in the faith-based gospel message. Critics essentially asked, “If those who claim to be justified before God through faith in Christ continue to sin, doesn’t that make Christ a servant of sin?” **How does Paul answer this question? In contrast, what would happen if Paul were to rebuild the laws that were torn down for us (v. 18)? What is dangerous about bringing the laws back for our salvation?**
9. **How does Paul describe his relationship with Christ (v. 19–20)? How does having Christ’s life within you practically affect your life? How does this help push back against the critics who say that grace-based salvation only leads to sin more?**
10. **What logical point does Paul give for believing in a grace-based gospel message (v. 21)?**

## APPLY

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1. **What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.**
2. **What should you pray for based on this passage?**
3. **What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?**

### REFLECT & CONNECT

*Paul’s courage to confront Peter shows us that love sometimes means saying the hard thing. Is there a situation in your life where speaking the truth in love is needed? How does Galatians 2:20 encourage you to act?*

**LESSON 5** — Galatians 3:1-14**FOCUS**

1. Who is someone (besides Jesus) you admire in the Bible? Explain.
2. What makes someone a mature Christian? What is the danger of not maturing in your faith?

**STUDY**

1. Paul is not teaching that the law is bad, but that it is incapable of saving people because of our sin. **Review: How did Paul explain how someone is saved in 2:16?**

**Read Galatians 3:1-9**

2. What about this section reveals Paul's frustration toward the churches he established (v. 1, 3)?
3. What fact about Jesus is central to the gospel message (v. 1)? If you were saved by upholding God's laws would Jesus' crucifixion be necessary (2:21)?
4. Paul asks rhetorical questions of the people to get them thinking about the signs of God's work in their lives. **What are those questions, and what are the apparent answers he is getting at (v. 2-6)?**
5. The Jews view Abraham as the founder of the Jewish religion and their spiritual father. **Why does Paul say Abraham was counted as righteous (v. 6)? Who are the spiritual children of Abraham (v. 7-9)?**
6. Read Genesis 12:1-4. **What was the promise God made to Abraham? How do you know Abraham believed God? What does this teach you about faith?**

**Read Galatians 3:10-14**

7. How is a person who relies on the works of the law for their salvation described (v. 10)? **Why? Consider: What level of keeping the law is required to be justified before a holy God? Who can meet this standard?**
8. Since we all start as cursed, how can we no longer have this curse upon us (v. 13-14)?
9. How does Jesus fulfill God's promise to Abraham thousands of years before his life, death, and resurrection (v. 13-14)? **What does this teach you about God?**
10. Knowing that salvation is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ, **why do you think so many Christians struggle at one time or another with feeling like they have to earn God's love? What are ways to overcome these lies?**

## APPLY

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1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.
2. What should you pray for based on this passage?
3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?

### REFLECT & CONNECT

*Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. Faith, not performance, is what God is looking for. Where in your life are you still trying to earn what God has already freely given?*

# LESSON 6 — Galatians 3:15–29

## FOCUS

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1. How do you know if something is a sin?
2. How seriously do you think our world takes promises?

## STUDY

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1. Read Galatians 3:8–9; Genesis 12:1–3; Genesis 15:1–6. **Review: What did God promise to Abraham (the founding father of Judaism)? How does Jesus fulfill God's plan (3:13–14)?**

### | Read Galatians 3:15–29

2. What is the human example Paul gives to express the seriousness of God's covenant (promise) (v. 15)? Who did God make the promise to (v. 16)?
3. How many years after God first promised to bless all nations through Abraham did God put in place the laws received by Moses (v. 17)? What point is Paul making about the promise and the law (v. 17–18); does one cancel the other?
4. Why was the law put in place (v. 19)? How is the law helpful at revealing sin? How long would God's laws be in place (v. 19)? What does this teach you about God's intended plan for salvation?
5. In general, do you think people think of themselves as sinners? Explain. Do you think someone can appreciate the gospel if they do not understand their sinful nature? Explain.
6. How do we know the law did not replace the promise made by God to Abraham (v. 21–22)? Explain.
7. In Greek homes, a guardian (often a slave) was assigned to care for and raise a child from 6 until adolescence. Their job was to train, tutor, discipline, and teach the child morals. **How is the comparison helpful for the people reading the letter? How long was the law's guardianship for (v. 23)?**
8. What effects of the law would make anyone long for a Savior?
9. What response to Jesus Christ frees people from the law (v. 24–25)?
10. How are these freed people's faith described (v. 26–29)? What do these descriptions mean for you?

## APPLY

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1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.
2. What should you pray for based on this passage?
3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?

### REFLECT & CONNECT

*In Christ there is no Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female — you are all one. How does this radical equality of the gospel shape the way you see and treat the people around you?*

# LESSON 7 — Galatians 4:1–20

## FOCUS

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1. How do you know when flattery is good or bad?
2. Why is it hard to kick old habits or ways of thinking?

## STUDY

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1. **Review: Who was the offspring that Abraham, the founding father of Judaism, was promised (3:16)? Who was our guardian before the promised offspring came (v. 24)? What does the promised offspring offer the world (3:23–26)? How does someone become an heir (a child of God) like Christ (3:25–26, 29)?**

### Read Galatians 4:1–7

2. In wealthy Greek homes, children would inherit their portion of what their family owned when they were of age. They would also have an assigned guardian over them for most of their childhood until adolescence. **How is a Greek heir treated until they receive their portion of the inheritance (v. 1)? What is the connection between the guardianship over a Greek child and the guardianship of the law (v. 3)?**
3. Paul is using an analogy to deepen the understanding of the slavery all people (Jewish and Gentile) were under until they became heirs of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Like a Greek child was treated the same as an enslaved person, Paul says we all, Jewish and Gentiles, were treated as slaves to the elementary principles of the world, which includes being a slave to sin and death (v. 3). **How do sin and death enslave us? Think about it: Can we get out of this bondage alone?**
4. **At what point does the Greek child receive his inheritance (v. 2)? At what point can we receive our inheritance as a child of God (v. 4–5)?**
5. **In what two ways does Jesus identify with us through his birth (v. 4)? Why is it necessary and good news for us that Jesus was born as a human under the law (v. 5)?**
6. **Not only are you no longer a slave, but what is your status once you place your faith in Jesus (v. 5–7)? What is special about being God's child?**

### Read Galatians 4:8-11

7. Paul reminds the Galatians of their enslavement to sin and death when they worshiped and followed false Greek gods. He then asks why they want to go back to being slaves to sin by believing they must follow the Jewish law to earn God's love when that is impossible and not at all God's intention for salvation. **Why do so many people still struggle to believe we have to work for God's approval, even Christians? What can we do to help each other combat this sort of thinking?**

### Read Galatians 4:12-20

8. Paul appeals to his relationship with the churches in Galatia. Describe how Paul first came to preach the gospel message there, what the relationship was between him and the new believers, and how it had changed with the teachings of the Judaizers (v. 12-16).
9. Paul reveals the true motives of the Judaizers – they flatter the church people so that they will be glorified and made much of. Their motives are not pure. **How does believing that you can receive salvation through the works of the law make much of yourself? What kind of purpose does Paul say that serves (v. 17)? Why? How does salvation through faith in Jesus make much of God? How does this also make much of you? What does Paul say about this rightful motivation (v. 18)?**
10. What about verses 19-20 tell you that Paul genuinely loves and cares for the church people in Galatia? How can you show genuine love for fellow Christians today?

### APPLY

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1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.
2. What should you pray for based on this passage?
3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?

#### REFLECT & CONNECT

*Paul's anguish for the Galatians is a picture of what genuine spiritual care looks like. Who in your life are you spiritually invested in? How can you show that kind of faithful, honest love to someone this week?*

# LESSON 8 — Galatians 4:21–31

## FOCUS

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1. Why is reading the Old Testament important?
2. How confident are you in your knowledge of the Old Testament? Explain.

## STUDY

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1. Review: How has Paul described the law in chapter 3 and early on in chapter 4?

### | Read Galatians 4:21

2. Once again, Paul addresses the false teachings of a work-based salvation using the scriptures (our Old Testament) to prove why we have good reason to believe in a faith-based salvation. First, Paul asks the church members who the Judaizers have influenced if they have read the scriptures (v. 21). **Why is it important that you read the scriptures yourself and not just trust what people in teaching positions over you teach?**

### | Read Galatians 4:22–27

3. Paul uses the same stories the Judaizers were teaching the Galatians but to reveal that the stories actually show God's plan for salvation through faith (3:16). **What comparisons is Paul making?**
4. Read Genesis 15:1–6 and 16:1–10. What was Abraham's concern, and what was God's response? Even though Abraham had spoken to God, why do you think he went along with Sarai's plan? **When do you think it is most difficult to trust God's Word? What does that reveal about your belief in God? What complications came from them taking God's plans into their own hands?**
5. Read Genesis 17:15–21. **Which son will God establish His covenant through, and how long of a covenant is this? What seems impossible about God's ways? What does this teach you about God?**
6. Now, look back at Galatians 4:22–23. **What does it mean that one son was born of the flesh and the other from the promise?**
7. **Which covenant does Paul compare Hagar and Ishmael to (v. 23–25)? Why? Which Jerusalem is Hagar compared to (v. 27)? What about Sarah (v. 26)?**

8. Note: The present-day Jerusalem had political and spiritual slavery – living there, they were under the oppression of the Roman government, and the Jewish leaders there taught salvation comes through the law. **What point about salvation is Paul trying to make by comparing Hagar’s son to the Mosaic law and the present-day Jerusalem? In contrast, how does Sarah’s story represent the Jerusalem above (God’s home and our future home)?**

### Read Galatians 4:28–5:1

9. **Did God choose to have us saved through Abraham’s and Sarah’s intervention (their own works) or through His promise (God’s work) (v. 28, 31)? How is it possible for any of us to be children from Isaac’s lineage if we are not Jewish (Galatians 3:29)? What do these women’s stories teach you about God’s plan for salvation?**
10. In Galatians 4:29–30, Paul reflects once again on the relationship between the two sons, Ishmael and Isaac. In Genesis 21:8–14, Ishmael (born from a slave), who was a teenager, laughed at and mocked baby Isaac (born from God’s promise). As a result of his insult, Sarah had Hagar and Ishmael banished. **What is the similarity between how Ishmael treated Isaac and how the Judaizers view Christians who believe in faith-alone salvation? How should we treat the teachings of someone who says works save us?**

### APPLY

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1. **What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.**
2. **What should you pray for based on this passage?**
3. **What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?**

### REFLECT & CONNECT

*God’s promise to Abraham came through faith, not human effort — even when Abraham and Sarah tried to take matters into their own hands. Where in your life are you tempted to take God’s plans into your own hands? What would it look like to trust His promise instead?*

# LESSON 9 — Galatians 5:1–12

## FOCUS

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1. What is unique about the gospel message compared to many other religions?
2. How can accepting a little bit of a bad thing into your life become a bigger threat to your well-being?

## STUDY

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1. **Review:** How would you summarize what Galatians 5:1 says in context with the letter? How can you practically apply this verse?

### Read Galatians 5:1–6

2. Why would Christ be of “no advantage” if the people accepted the teachings that you must be circumcised in the flesh to be saved (v. 2)? Why is this a ridiculous notion (v. 3)?
3. How is someone’s relationship and standing with Christ described for those who rely on their works to be justified/made righteous (v. 4)? Why?
4. Those who rely on their own works for salvation are described as separated from Christ with God’s judgement still on them. In contrast, **who can have hope for righteousness (v. 5–6)? Explain.**
5. Paul is not saying that circumcision is wrong, but that it will not save you for the day of judgment (v. 6). **What new concept (that will be teased out more later) about faith does Paul introduce in this verse? How is the way you love God and others an indication of your faith in Jesus?**

### Read Galatians 5:7–12

6. What does Paul mean when he says the church people were running so well (v. 7)? Who is NOT changing the gospel message (v. 8)? How can you ensure that you aren’t being persuaded into something that goes against God’s Word?
7. Leaven — or yeast — does not remain isolated in a single spot within a lump of dough. It spreads and becomes part of the entire loaf. **What point is Paul making about false teaching allowed in a congregation or individual’s life (v. 9)? In addition to church leaders, what other influences in your life should you be mindful of how they influence your belief system?**
8. Who does Paul believe will lead the Galatians back to the truth (v. 10)? What does he believe will happen to the false teacher? What does this teach you about the seriousness of teaching?

9. It was likely that a rumor was spread that Paul preached that people needed to be circumcised in addition to believing in Jesus Christ to be saved. His response was, “Why would the Jews be persecuting me if I preached the same as them?” **Think about this section and the whole letter: what do you learn about how Paul handled rumors? What are good and bad ways to handle false rumors about yourself? What do you learn about how to treat the rumors you hear about others?**
10. In verse 11, Paul seems quite angry as he makes his most severe comment by stating that he wishes the false teachers would castrate themselves. Paul does not want them to hurt themselves physically, but from a spiritual perspective, someone who is castrated can not produce more converts. **Paul is obviously angry: Is anger sinful? (Read Ephesians 4:26 and Mark 3:1-5 for more insight.) Is Paul sinning when he makes his comment? How do you know if your anger is righteous or sinful?**

## APPLY

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1. **What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.**
2. **What should you pray for based on this passage?**
3. **What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?**

### REFLECT & CONNECT

*Paul warns that a little false teaching spreads like yeast through a whole loaf. What are the voices and influences in your life shaping your understanding of the gospel? Are they pointing you toward grace and truth, or pulling you away?*

# LESSON 10 — Galatians 5:13–25

## FOCUS

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1. What does it mean to live for Christ?
2. What do you know about the Holy Spirit? What questions do you have about the Holy Spirit?

## STUDY

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1. **Review:** In Galatians 5:6, what does Paul say counts towards our salvation, and what does not count? According to Paul, what will faith look like when lived out? How is love an expression of faith in Jesus?

### Read Galatians 5:13–15

2. What are we free from? How should God's free people live, and how should they not live? Why?
3. Here, Paul declares that using your freedom in Christ to live for yourself is a waste. **How is "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" a good summary of God's laws and how a Christian ought to live (v. 14)? If we take advantage of our freedom in Christ, how will our relationship with others be affected (v. 15)?**

### Read Galatians 5:16–25

4. What is the supernatural key to not living a self-centered life that distorts the freedom God gave us through faith in Jesus (v. 16)?
5. What is the Spirit, and what is the flesh? What is the relationship between the Spirit and the flesh like (v. 17)? How have you experienced the tension between the Spirit and your flesh? How is this tension different from what a non-Christian will experience?
6. Paul is not making a new law for Christians to follow but giving what should be obvious examples of what it looks like to live life according to the flesh and not by the Spirit. **Do you notice any repeating ideas (v. 19–21)? Are there any examples that surprise or stand out to you? How does living by the flesh affect a person's relationship with God and others?**
7. Paul says that those who continuously practice sinning will not inherit the kingdom of God (v. 21). How is continuously practicing sin different from an isolated lapse? Why is this an important distinction to make? What does continuously sinning imply about a person's relationship with God?

- 8. In contrast to the flesh, what description does Paul give to those who are in Christ when they allow the Holy Spirit to lead them (v. 22–24)? How is it possible to produce this spiritual fruit (v. 24)?**
- 9.** Read the following descriptions of the nine characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit and discuss: Which description stands out to you? Why? How does the fruit of the Spirit make us Christlike? (1) Love — selfless love that considers others above ourselves. (2) Joy — an inner confidence and peace from trusting God regardless of circumstances. (3) Peace — restful, assured stillness and spiritual calm. (4) Patience — the ability to endure hardship and wait on God’s perfect timing. (5) Kindness — goodness and gentleness toward anyone, even those who are challenging. (6) Goodness — the ability to do the right thing in every circumstance. (7) Faithfulness — endurance driven by trust, keeping going in the right direction. (8) Gentleness — the supernatural ability not to demand control or be extreme in responses. (9) Self-control — the supernatural ability to submit our will to His leading. **Which of these stands out most to you right now, and why?**
- 10. The Holy Spirit does not make us into God’s puppets but helps us to live for God as we partner with His Spirit (v. 25). What does it mean to “keep in step” with the Spirit?**

#### APPLY

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- 1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.**
- 2. What should you pray for based on this passage?**
- 3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?**

#### REFLECT & CONNECT

*The fruit of the Spirit is not produced by trying harder — it grows naturally when we stay connected to Christ. Which fruit do you most want to see grow in your life right now? What would it look like to “keep in step” with the Spirit this week?*

**LESSON 11** — Galatians 6:1–10**FOCUS**

1. What is the purpose of a test? What kind of feelings are associated with taking tests?
2. What does the saying “You reap what you sow” mean? Give an example.

**STUDY**

1. **Review:** How does God want us to live out our freedom (5:13–26)? Why? What does it mean to walk by the Spirit versus walking by the flesh?

**| Read Galatians 6:1–5**

2. What responsibilities do followers of Jesus have toward each other (v. 1–2)? What does it mean to be a spiritual person? What characteristic(s) of the Spirit listed in 5:22–23 should a believer take when helping their struggling brother or sister in Christ (v. 1)? What type of temptations might a believer need to be careful of while helping to restore someone caught in sin (v. 1)?
3. What does it practically mean to bear someone’s burdens? What complications can come from helping in this way?
4. One reason we may not ask for help sharing our burdens or not wanting to help others is because of our pride, which is why, in verse 3, Paul says that when you think too highly of yourself, you are deceived. **How does pride get in our way of asking for help or offering help to others? Is it easy or difficult for you to ask for help? Explain.**
5. In verse 4, Paul instructs believers to test themselves by correctly evaluating their works of living for Christ. Believers should do this not by comparing themselves to others but instead by evaluating themselves honestly. This boasting is not prideful; instead, it is considered an honest reflection of themselves. **What dangers come from comparing ourselves to others? How can you evaluate how you live for Christ in the power of the Spirit?**
6. Paul distinguishes between bearing a person’s burdens in verse 2, which implies something unreasonably and extremely heavy for one person to carry on their own, to a “load” in verse 5, that is manageable and reasonable for a person to take on themselves. **What is an example of something a person needs to bear on their own? How do you know when a “load” becomes too much for yourself or someone else and assistance is needed?**

**7. One way Paul may be implying that each believer is to bear our own load is through the responsibility of supporting our pastors. Why would Paul include the idea that taking care of our pastors should be something each person does?**

### **Read Galatians 6:6–10**

- 8.** Some people believe that because they are saved by faith, they can take advantage of God’s grace and forgiveness and live however they want (by the flesh). However, God is not mocked, and if someone chooses to live against His good design and by their flesh, they will reap a harvest fitting for their sins (v. 7–8). **What does it mean to “reap what you sow?” How does the principle of sowing and reaping connect to Galatians 5:16–23?**
- 9.** **Why might a believer feel weary (tired, fatigued) from doing good? Why would it be extra encouraging to hear these words from Paul? Who does Paul urge believers to continue to do good for (v. 10)? Why do you think he emphasizes doing good to the “household of faith.” How have fellow Christians blessed your life?**
- 10.** **What does this passage teach you about what God values for your life?**

### **APPLY**

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- 1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.**
- 2. What should you pray for based on this passage?**
- 3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?**

#### **REFLECT & CONNECT**

*Bearing one another’s burdens is one of the most practical expressions of the gospel in community. Is there someone in your life right now whose burden you could help carry? Is there a burden you’ve been carrying alone that you need to let others help with?*

# LESSON 12 — Galatians 6:11–18

## FOCUS

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1. How has your life changed as a result of placing your faith in Jesus?
2. What would you tell someone who feels like they are too far gone to be forgiven by God? What would you say to someone who tells you they don't need God?

## STUDY

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### Read Galatians 6:11–18

1. What reasons does Paul think are motivating the Judaizers to push for circumcision (v. 12–13)?
2. The Judaizers demanded that the Gentiles follow the law to belong to God. **How well did they keep the law themselves (v. 13)? Why doesn't their inconsistency seem to bother them?**
3. In contrast to boasting in human works, Paul says his boasting is in the cross of Christ (v. 14). **What does he mean by this? Why would he then conclude the world has been crucified to him, and he has been crucified to the world? What does this mean?**
4. As Paul restates time and time again, salvation is NOT dependent on our works, including circumcision, which was once an outward sign that expressed a person's allegiance to the one true God. Paul concludes that instead of a physical alteration to the body, what matters is that we have become a new creation. **What does it mean to become a new creation? What has it looked like in your life?**
5. **Who does Paul say can experience true peace and mercy (v. 16)?**
6. Paul makes one last combative remark and tells the Judaizers to leave him alone (v. 17). He will not change the gospel message he preached, and the evidence of his conviction is the marks of Jesus on his body – likely the physical inflictions given to him by those persecuting him for his allegiance to Christ alone. **How does Paul's life make his previous teachings about not becoming weary of doing good (6:9) even more meaningful?**
7. **What tone does Paul have as he concludes his letter (v. 18)? What does he wish for the Galatians? How does this blessing fit with the rest of the letter?**
8. **How would you summarize the fundamental problem the Galatians faced? What were Paul's major arguments for trusting in the gospel they first heard from him?**
9. **How would you summarize what it means to respond to the truth that you are saved through faith?**

- 10. How has your study in the book of Galatians affected your thinking or actions? What questions has this study stirred up in you? What can you do to seek reliable answers to those questions?**

### APPLY

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- 1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.**
- 2. What should you pray for based on this passage?**
- 3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?**

#### REFLECT & CONNECT

*Galatians ends not with condemnation but with grace — “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.” After twelve lessons exploring the depths of the gospel, how has your understanding of grace, freedom, and faith grown? What is the one truth from Galatians you want to carry with you?*