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C.A.R.E. SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

C.A.R.E. Study Material

Book of Galatians

*And daily in the temple, and in every house,
they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

(Acts 5:42 (KJV))



For more information on the C.A.R.E. Ministry
Please email CARE@bgtintl.com or call the Church office
Christ-Like Approach in Reaching Everyone

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1. Galatians 1:1-24

The Galatian Christians were in the midst of church controversy. The debate concerned whether non-Jewish believers had to follow the Jewish laws and traditions to be considered true Christians. Paul's purpose in writing this letter was to give an unqualified "no" in answer to that question. Many people would like to add their own twist to the gospel. We, however, must be on our guard against those who would try to change or confuse the gospel message found in the Bible.

OPEN

1. If you were able, how would you like to change the ending to any well-known story or movie?

EXPLORE

2. Who does Paul say chose him and the Galatians to serve God? (1:1, 6)
3. How does Paul describe the motives of those who were falsely teaching the gospel message? (1:7)
4. What does Paul prescribe for anyone who dared to change the gospel message? (1:8-9)
5. How did Paul receive the Good News? (1:11-12)

GET IT

6. How does the divine inspiration of Scripture distinguish it from human philosophies or ideas?
7. What "additions" are often tacked on to the simple message of the Good News?
8. In what ways might the gospel of faith in Jesus seem too easy, or too good to be true, for some people?
9. Why do you think the concept of earning salvation from good works is popular with many people?

APPLY

10. For whom can you clarify the simple message of the Good News this week?

2. Galatians 2:1-21

Paul's mission was to spread the gospel to those who were not Jews. Peter, on the other hand, was called to work with the Jews. Conflict came between the two apostles over whether non-Jews had to observe Jewish traditions in order to be saved. Paul confronted Peter when Peter began to support those who forced Jewish traditions on believers. This confrontation, which Paul highlighted in this passage, emphasizes an individual's need for faith in Christ, not works, in order to be saved.

OPEN

1. What two people would you like to see in a public debate and on what issue?

EXPLORE

2. Who was the messenger to the Jews? Who was the messenger to those who were not Jews? (2:7-8)
3. How did Peter first interact with non-Jews? (2:12)
4. How did Peter's behavior change? Why did it change? (2:12)
5. How does Paul say a person is made right with God? (2:16)

GET IT

6. In what ways do people try to earn good standing with God?
7. How would you explain to a nonbeliever the foolishness of trying to earn one's own salvation?
8. In what ways are you, like Peter, tempted to allow others to negatively influence your beliefs?
9. In what areas of your life are you tempted to be legalistic?

APPLY

10. What will you do about the areas of potential legalism you identified in your own life?

3. Galatians 3:1-25

In this passage, Paul explained the relationship between law and faith. The law given by God is unable to save anyone because no one can perfectly follow it. It points out our sinfulness and our need for a Savior. Only Jesus, our Savior, can deliver us from our awful predicament. Only he can clothe us in his righteousness and make us right before a Holy God.

OPEN

1. What would life be like if you never made any mistakes?

EXPLORE

2. How were the Galatians attempting to live out the Christian life? (3:3)
3. What is the curse on those who depend on making rules and adhering to rules to make them right? (3:10)
4. What important element is missing in the law? (3:12)
5. What did Christ do in response to the law's curse? (3:13)

GET IT

6. In what ways do believers try to live the Christian life in their own strength?
7. When have you felt most successful in living the way Christ desires Christians to live?
8. How does it make you feel when you really blow it in your faith?
9. What contrasts can you be drawn between rule-keeping and a relationship as a basis for spiritual living?

APPLY

10. How would change your life to make all your actions perfectly consistent with the belief that you cannot earn a good standing before God?

4. Galatians 3:26-4:31

Paul uses the illustration of family to demonstrate our new relationship with God through Christ. Every believer is considered to be God's child regardless of background, experience, race, or gender. In this new family, we can rest assured that we belong and will receive blessing upon blessing from God, our heavenly Father.

OPEN

1. How would you describe a perfect "family"?

EXPLORE

2. How does someone become God's child? (3:27)
3. What does not matter among members of God's family? (3:28)
4. What illustration does Paul use to describe the before-and-after experience of becoming God's child? (4:1-5)
5. What does God promise to give his children? (4:7)

GET IT

6. What does it mean to you to belong?
7. In what specific ways does belonging to God impact your life?
8. How have you experienced blessings as a child of God?
9. How easily do you imitate Christ's acceptance of you when dealing with others in the family of God?

APPLY

10. How can you be more sensitive to and accepting of other believers who may be different from you in various ways?

5. Galatians 5:1-26

One of the overarching themes of the letter to the Galatians is Christian freedom. Paul encouraged the Galatian believers not to lose their newfound freedom in Christ by surrendering to those who were caught up in rules and traditions. He was concerned that the Galatians would start depending on these traditions for their salvation instead of wholeheartedly depending on Jesus.

OPEN

1. If the dire need arose, for what principle would you be willing to risk your life to uphold?

EXPLORE

2. Who grants a believer their freedom? (5:1)
3. How can a person surrender their freedom? (5:4)
4. What illustration does Paul use to characterize the compromised freedom of the Galatians? (5:7-8)
5. What caution does Paul give believers regarding abuse of their freedom? (5:13)

GET IT

6. What do you think it means to be free in Christ?
7. When do you feel especially burdened, or enslaved, in your spiritual life?
8. In what significant or insignificant ways have you surrendered the freedom you can experience through Christ?
9. How can your “freedom” become a rationalization for doing whatever you please?

APPLY

10. When can you set aside some time this week to ask Jesus to reveal to you where in your life you have been depending on rules instead of depending completely on his grace, his favor, and his strength?

6. Galatians 6:1-18

Paul concluded his letter to the Galatians with a review of what really matters most in life. He reminded the Galatians that boiling life down to the monotony of rules is really not life at all. Being a new creation—the person God truly desires—is what really matters. He points to the cross of Jesus as the starting point. There, Christ put to death the sins of the old nature. In its place, he brought forth a new, godly creation, founded on his own righteous life.

OPEN

1. Would the person who knows you best say you “work for a living” or that you “live in order to work”?

EXPLORE

2. What is different about the final verses of the letter to the Galatians? (6:11)
3. What did some of the leaders in Galatia want the new believers to do? (6:12-13)
4. What happened to Paul’s worldly desires? (6:14)
5. What did Paul consider the most important in life? (6:15)

GET IT

6. What significance do you feel is laid on the conclusion of this letter when Paul chose to write the instructions with his own hand?
7. When have you felt like someone was trying to force their religious opinions on you?
8. In what ways have you been crucified to the world? In what ways do you need to sacrifice your own desires even more?
9. How can believers focus more on their relationship with Christ and less on religious rule-keeping?

APPLY

10. What practical steps can you take this week to make sure you are following Jesus’ perfect example instead of following a set of religious rules?

Notes

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