

SMALL GROUP

FALL 2020

Dear Students,

Congratulations! Do you know how rare it is for a high school student to find and commit to a Small Group like this one? The fact that you're holding this booklet represents the reality that God has given you an incredible gift of fellowship with your peers. In this group, you have a community of Christian friends that want to help you grow in your faith. You also have one or more adult leaders who care about you and want to guide you through their teaching and example. If all that wasn't already great enough, you also have this study guide to use as a tool to help you grow in your understanding and application of God's Word!

As you journey through this semester with your small group, here are three points of advice to ensure you get the most of your time:

Be consistent – Make a personal commitment to yourself and the group to attend as consistently as possible. If you have to miss a meeting, do the lesson on your own and try to catch up with what you missed by checking in with a leader or a friend from group.

Be real – High school can be challenging. Be as honest as possible with God, your leaders, and your group about what's happening in your life. Don't bury your hurts, failures, questions, or doubts. Pretending everything is always amazing is not the path to growth.

Be open – Your small group might not always meet your expectations. Group members might be shallow, hypocritical, annoying, awkward, or fake. New people might join in the middle of the year and change the dynamic of the room. Remind yourself regularly that God is in control and that He can use anything to produce a positive result. Everyone deserves the gift of small group and God desires to bless each person in wonderful and unique ways.

Have a great semester studying 2 Timothy & Galatians!

In Christ,

Jermaine

(Page 1)

Small Group

Fall 2020 Schedule

August 26Shoreline Family Kickoff
September 2Shoreline
September 9.....2 Timothy 1
September 16.....2 Timothy 2
September 23.....2 Timothy 3
September 30.....2 Timothy 4
October 7Shoreline
October 14Galatians 1
October 21Galatians 2
October 28Galatians 3
November 4Shoreline
November 11Galatians 4
November 18Galatians 5
November 25(Thanksgiving Break)
December 2.....Galatians 6
December 9Shoreline

Special Events

October 31 – November 1Hideaway Local
February 5 – 7DTown

(Page 2)

Before you begin...

Bring a Bible (Cell Phone Policy)

Cell phones are awesome! They are incredible tools that help us connect with others and discover endless amounts of information. However, our mobile devices can also easily become a huge distraction. For this reason, we highly encourage our Small Groups to bring a print version of the bible and to put away phones, tablets, etc. during the actual bible study portion of your time.

About Bible Translations

The best translation of the bible is...the one you actually read! Although there are many great translations, we like the translation called the New Living Translation (NLT). Editors for the NLT have done a great job making God's Word accurate and understandable.

Suggested Resources

Many Christians fall away from faith because of difficult questions. This is a tragedy because, for most of these challenging questions, there are helpful and clear answers just a few clicks away! A Christian who desires to remain unshaken in their faith, should familiarize themselves with the following resources so they can be ready for the difficult questions that are sure to come.

soniclight.com

This is your go-to online Bible study resource! It is a commentary of every book of the Bible. Perfect for going deeper.

openbible.info/topics

This website is perfect for finding bible verses related to almost any topic you can think of. What does the bible say about _____? This website has the answer!

gotquestions.org

Here you can find discussions and explanations relating to almost any question you may have in mind. Just type in a question and get ready to learn!

[Real Truth. Real Quick. YouTube Page](#)

A series of short videos from Watermark's Senior Pastor, Todd Wagner, that addresses common questions with direct answers from God's Word.

The Structure of a Small Group Meeting

Each Small Group gathering consists of hang time, someone sharing the gospel, someone sharing their 3 minute personal testimony, video or in-person Bible study (10 minutes) with corresponding discussion time (30 minutes). Bible study time includes studying a chapter of God's word and discussing how it affects or should affect our daily life. Finally, set aside time for final encouragements, reminders and prayer.

What is the Gospel?

The gospel is the epicenter of the Christian faith, the theme of the whole Bible, and the only hope of every human soul. Understanding and being able to share the gospel are foundational skills for every follower of Jesus Christ. "What is the gospel?" This is a question that will be asked at the start of each and every Small Group meeting, so be prepared. To learn more, Google "Sharing Your Faith 101" from Billy Graham, "One Verse Evangelism" from the Navigators, or "Romans Road to Salvation" from GotQuestions.org.

Below are some key questions (and follow up questions) you can use to promote the community and accountability of your Small Group. Remember, every discussion is an opportunity to point each other to Jesus Christ and the truth of God's word.

Key Accountability Questions

1. How has your time with God been this week? What have you learned about God and yourself?
2. What has inspired or encouraged you this week?
3. What has been weighing on you this week?
4. How have you struggled with sin or temptation this week?
5. How have you shared Christ with and/or shown God's love to others this week?
6. How can we pray for you or serve you (advice, encouragement, support) this week?
7. What are your hopes or goals for next week?

Key Passages about Community and Accountability

Proverbs 27:17, Proverbs 28:13, Proverbs 20:5, Proverbs 25:12, Ecclesiastes 4:8-12, Romans 14: 13-23, 2 Corinthians 12:19-13:6, Galatians 6: 1-6, Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 4:9-13, 1 Thessalonians 5:14, James 5:15-16, Hebrews 3:13, Hebrews 10:23-25



Why Study 2 Timothy?

Last words are important. If you've ever had the experience of being around someone before they died or heard a story from someone who has, you would agree that the last thing that a dying person says is really important. The blessing, advice or encouragement that they give just before passing on from this life is cherished by those to whom the words were spoken.

The Apostle Paul is one of the early church's most well known leaders. He wrote at least 13 of the 27 books contained in the New Testament. He is known as the greatest missionary of all time as he took the good news of the gospel to places it had never been before in the Middle East and parts of Europe. He helped plant churches, established church leadership, and was the spiritual father to which those leaders looked for counsel. Paul's boldness, faith, courage, perseverance, and dependence on the Lord at every turn were what set him apart to be uniquely used by God. Wouldn't it be awesome to know what his last words to believers everywhere were? We're glad you asked! We do have these words recorded in the epistle of 2 Timothy.

2 Timothy was written in about A.D. 66 or 67 by Paul shortly before he was arrested and executed by Emperor Nero. Timothy was Paul's spiritual son. He was the one Paul had taught, trained and developed to take over the role as 'senior pastor' of the churches Paul planted on his missionary journeys. 2 Timothy is very personal in tone as Paul bears his heart to Timothy and reminds him of what the priorities of the church should always be.

Timothy was a young man leading in the church surrounded by a world that wanted to reject the message and way of Christ, much like our world today. We live at a point in history where Paul's words to Timothy couldn't be more relevant to high school students. Paul's message to Timothy (and to us) is a simple one: "Don't let the truth of God's word, the good news of the gospel and the grace of Jesus stop with you. Pass it on"! We read & study 2 Timothy to be reminded of the call to boldness in our stand for Christ, faithfulness in our walk, soundness in our teaching, loyalty to other believers, and a loving response to a lost, hopeless world that needs to hear and see the good news of what Christ has done for us!

Suggested Memory Verses

2 Timothy 1:7, 2 Timothy 2:2, 2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Timothy 2:22, 2 Timothy 3:15-17, 2 Timothy 4:2

September 9

2 Timothy 1

Key Points

(v. 1-2) Timothy was a young man who probably became a believer after the first of Paul's three missionary journeys. He proceeded to joining Paul on his second and third missionary journeys and became one of Paul's closest friends and ministry partners despite being way younger than Paul. Timothy was Paul's beloved spiritual "son" that he taught everything he knew.

(v. 3-4) Paul prayed consistently for his friend and partner in ministry Timothy. The closeness of their friendship is seen in the fact that the last time Paul & Timothy saw each other, they cried, and looked forward to a future reunion. How well do you cherish close friendships and hold up your friends to the Lord in prayer?

(v. 5) Timothy's grandmother and mother left a great spiritual heritage in his life that Paul was convinced was clearly evident. If your parents are faithful followers of Christ, take some time to thank them for their spiritual investment in you. If they aren't, how can you take advantage of chances to share your faith with them? How are you preparing yourself today to leave a lasting spiritual heritage in the lives of your friends, family and maybe even your own children one day?

(v. 6-8) Timothy was feeling the pressure of intimidation from believers and non-believers because of his youthfulness and association with Paul. He was cowering back from his responsibility to boldly proclaim the truth of the gospel. Paul reminds Timothy that his faith is sincere, that he should continue to develop his spiritual gifts that were affirmed by the elders of the church, and that he should become a partner in suffering for the gospel with Paul.

(v. 9-12) Paul believed the gospel was the best news anyone could ever hear. He believed the gospel changes the way we live, and he believed that the gospel impacts our life for all eternity. For those reasons, Paul could be bold and confident no matter what he experienced.

(v. 13-18) Paul encouraged Timothy to follow his example in teaching, in faith, and in love. It was Timothy's responsibility to carry on what was given to him by Paul. If you are a high schooler that has been discipled through church, family, friendships and your Small Group, you have a responsibility to share what you have learned and experienced with younger believers.

(Page 7)

This Week's Assignments

_____ will share the gospel.

_____ will share a 3-minute personal testimony.

_____ will lead the discussion.

Discuss

Questions I want to ask at Small Group about this chapter:

Know and Do

In your opinion, what's the most important idea that you will take away from this chapter?

How does this chapter move you to action? After reading this chapter, what would God have you start doing, stop doing, or keep doing?

September 16

2 Timothy 2

Key Points

(v. 1) The phrase “be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” is better translated “be empowered by the grace shown to us through Christ”. In other words, we are to depend on Christ every step of the way because we are unable to be faithful apart from Him.

(v. 2) Timothy’s responsibility was to pass on what he had been entrusted to him. Whatever he had seen, heard, learned and experienced about God, His word and life on earth, he was to entrust to others who would be faithful to do the same thing. Christianity and its beliefs don’t just magically appear from generation to generation. They are taught to faithful men and women who faithfully pass on the message. How are you doing at passing on the message that is being entrusted to you? See also Psalm 71:15-18.

(v. 3-10) Paul calls Timothy to be his partner in the gospel by modelling the discipline, patience, and obedience of a soldier, farmer, and athlete. He reminds Timothy that the gospel being preached to others was the reason he was enduring persecution. No matter how others respond, our responsibility is to share the truth of the gospel that brings healing and hope!

(v. 11-13) The problem phrase in this quotation is “if we deny him, he will deny us”. It seems to indicate the possibility of losing our salvation. However, what Paul is getting at here is that someone who claims to be a Christian but has never truly trusted in Christ will “deny” Christ with their actions, thereby proving that they weren’t believers in the first place. A true believer will truly prove it by the way they live.

(v. 14-26) Paul ends this chapter by giving Timothy a blueprint for dealing with false teachers. Timothy was to consistently study God’s word (v. 15), reject & avoid false teaching (v. 16-18), live a life marked by purity (v. 20-22), and respond to false teachers with kindness, gentleness and truth (v. 23-25). All in the hopes that they will turn from the error of their ways (v. 26).

This Week's Assignments

_____ will share the gospel.

_____ will share a 3-minute personal testimony.

_____ will lead the discussion.

Discuss

Questions I want to ask at Small Group about this chapter:

Know and Do

In your opinion, what's the most important idea that you will take away from this chapter?

How does this chapter move you to action? After reading this chapter, what would God have you start doing, stop doing, or keep doing?

September 23

2 Timothy 3

Key Points

(v. 1-5) Whenever you read the term “last days” in the New Testament, it is referring to the time between Christ’s ascension to heaven after He rose from the dead and His second coming in the future. That means Timothy and the church at Ephesus was living in the last days in the first century, just as we are in the 21st century. The term also reveals a sense of urgency as Christ could return at any point during the last days.

(v. 1-5) Paul goes on to point out to Timothy and to us the kind of characteristics of humanity that will mark the last days. He lists 19 different characteristics that believers should expect to see in society. What characteristic on the list do you find yourself more prone to fall into, and what can you do to combat this unhealthy tendency in your life?

(v. 5-9) Paul issues a stern warning to Timothy to not have a close bond of relationship with anyone who continuously lives out the sinful, broken characteristics found in humanity in the last days. This is NOT a call to reject relationships with non-believers or Christians who struggle in some of these areas, but to make a deliberate, decision to regularly call those individuals to an abiding relationship with Christ and reject their false ideas.

(v. 10-12) Paul separates himself from the group that indulges in the prevailing culture of the last days by highlighting the values that he chose to hold to. He also highlights what happens when you go against the currents of culture: People don’t like you! Paul was stoned and left for dead multiple times and endured all kinds of persecution for his decision to stand up for Christ (2 Corinthians 11:23–33). Standing for Christ will cost you. Are you willing to pay the price? Because persecution is a part of the deal.

(v. 13-17) While the culture continues to reject Christ, believers can continue trusting in Christ, reading His word, and allowing it to transform us more and more into His image. God’s word is powerful. It is an invaluable tool for helping us on our journey through this life. Read it through! Pray it in! Live it out! Pass it on (Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 119: 9, 11)!

This Week's Assignments

_____ will share the gospel.

_____ will share a 3-minute personal testimony.

_____ will lead the discussion.

Discuss

Questions I want to ask at Small Group about this chapter:

Know and Do

In your opinion, what's the most important idea that you will take away from this chapter?

How does this chapter move you to action? After reading this chapter, what would God have you start doing, stop doing, or keep doing?

September 30

2 Timothy 4

Key Points

(v. 1-2) Paul makes the point here that there is no greater responsibility for a church leader than to preach the word of God faithfully no matter what. To proclaim truth, correct error, rebuke sinful living and encourage faithfulness in a patient manner with teaching that is well prepared and clearly delivered. We aren't all given the gift and responsibility of preaching and teaching in the context of a church leader, but we all have a responsibility to be ready to share truth from God's word with our words and actions at school, home, work, or in our friend groups. Are you ready?

(v. 3-4) Paul explains why every believer should be equipped and ready to share the truth from God's word: As time goes on, more and more people will only want to hear things from teachers and church leaders that encourage them to live their lives however they please. So they will go in search of pastors, leaders and churches that don't challenge them in their walk with Christ, but only promise prosperity, healthy and a great life. The more time passes, the more an anti-Bible, anti-Christian message will become prevalent in our world.

(v. 5) Paul's encouragement to Timothy and to us is that no matter how many people go after false doctrines, ideas and teachers, that we as believers should remain faithful to the work that God has called us to. To endure pain, preach the gospel and use our gifts for His glory!

(v. 6-8) Paul's reason for giving this stirring charge to Timothy and to the church is that he knew that in just a little while, he would be dead. Paul had faithfully served the Lord during his time as a follower of Jesus and wants all believers to do the same. What an gift and privilege to come to the end of your life and be able to honestly say "I've fought a good fight, I've finished my course, I've kept the faith"! Who wouldn't want to be able to say this? The way you can be sure you will be able to say that is to wake up every day determined to live faithfully that day!

(v. 9-21) Here Paul describes his relationships in ministry. Some people had remained loyal to him no matter what, some people deserted him when danger fell or when ministry stopped being easy, and still others aggressively opposed him and his work for the Lord. Sometimes Paul was alone and sometimes he was lonely. How can you encourage a ministry leader or small group leader that you know? Your words, text or note may be exactly what they need!

This Week's Assignments

_____ will share the gospel.

_____ will share a 3-minute personal testimony.

_____ will lead the discussion.

Discuss

Questions I want to ask at Small Group about this chapter:

Know and Do

In your opinion, what's the most important idea that you will take away from this chapter?

How does this chapter move you to action? After reading this chapter, what would God have you start doing, stop doing, or keep doing?



MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Church membership is
part of God's plan for all believers.

 **shorelinedallas**

Find us on your phone!

Why Study Galatians?

Before Netflix, Hulu, Apple TV+, Disney +, Prime Video, there was Blockbuster. If you really wanted to watch that movie that you missed out on, your best option was to rent it from a Blockbuster store. At the peak of its existence in 2004 there were over 9,000 Blockbuster video stores all across America! But with the rise of high speed internet and streaming services you can have access to thousands of movies and TV shows in a matter of seconds without ever leaving your couch. At present, there are 2(!!!) Blockbuster video stores left in existence. The reason for the demise of Blockbuster is that there is an easier, more convenient and more efficient way to watch movies. To drive hundreds of miles to find the one Blockbuster left in the U.S when you can just sign into Netflix and find the same movie would make no sense. Some may even call it foolish!

The book of Galatians was written to several churches that Paul founded on his missionary journeys. These young churches were made up of Jews who had converted to Christianity and Gentiles (people not from Jewish descent) who heard that right relationship with God was accomplished by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Paul taught them that they couldn't work hard enough or be good enough to achieve right standing before God, they had to trust in Christ. Unfortunately, the Judaizers (an extremist group of Jews), would come through these young churches and teach them that Gentile Christians had to believe in Christ AND follow Jewish laws and traditions to actually be saved. These churches bought into the false teachings of the Judaizers and were seeking right relationship with God by keeping the Law along with their trust in Christ. They were going back to an old way (Blockbuster) when a new, better way (Hulu, Netflix) was at their disposal. So Paul wrote to refute this false teaching and to call all believers to understand that salvation is by grace through faith and nothing else!

It's important for us in 2020 to read and understand the truths contained in the book of Galatians because it is so easy for us to fall into the trap of "performance based acceptance". That is, if we do enough good Christian things, God will be happy with us. But if we don't do enough good Christian things, God will be mad, and punish us. This thinking is simply false and downright dangerous; we are accepted by God based on our faith in His Son's work, not on the basis of our own work. Galatians reminds us of this truth. Let's dive in and learn more!

Suggested Memory Verses

Galatians 1:10, Galatians 2:20, Galatians 3:24-25, Galatians 4:4, Galatians 5:1, 13

October 14

Galatians 1

Key Points

(v. 1) The Judaizers (Jews that believed obedience to the Old Testament Law was necessary for salvation), questioned Paul's apostleship because he wasn't one of the original disciples chosen by Christ. Paul makes sure that his readers knew that He was called and commissioned by the resurrected Christ.

(v. 2). This epistle wasn't written to one church in particular, but to several that Paul and his associates started as they brought the gospel to the Gentiles. Think about this, the gospel was shared with Gentiles (non-Jews) in Galatia by the message of Paul and his ministry partners. Today we "non-Jews" still benefit from their faithfulness to proclaim God's word. How many future generations may be impacted by your faithfulness to share the gospel?

(vv. 3-5) Paul was being accused of diluting the gospel to make it more appealing to Gentiles. But here Paul makes the point of the letter in a summary statement: Christ's death was voluntary and its effects are final. His death satisfied God's righteous demands against sinners, reconciled people to God, and provided for human redemption. No amount of goodness or obedience on our part can accomplish what Christ has already accomplished through His life, death & resurrection.

(vv. 6-10) Paul makes a bold & true statement about the gospel: If anyone, even an angel tries to explain that our way to right relationship with God is anything but trust in the finished work of Christ, that person doesn't understand the true gospel and is in danger of eternal condemnation. Though Paul knew that his perspective may not be received well by people in the churches, he knew that his responsibility was to please God and not man. In what scenarios are you tempted to please men instead of standing up for God's truth?

(vv. 11-23) In these verses, Paul basically shares his testimony of how he was saved and came to trust in the work of Christ. Because of Christ, this murderer of Christians was transformed into a gospel proclaimer. When was the last time you shared your story of grace & transformation?

This Week's Assignments

_____ will share the gospel.

_____ will share a 3-minute personal testimony.

_____ will lead the discussion.

Discuss

Questions I want to ask at Small Group about this chapter:

Know and Do

In your opinion, what's the most important idea that you will take away from this chapter?

How does this chapter move you to action? After reading this chapter, what would God have you start doing, stop doing, or keep doing?

October 21

Galatians 2

Key Points

(v. 1) Although Paul had trusted Christ years earlier, he spent many years preparing himself for the ministry God had called him to. Paul's situation was unique, he was going to be the first man to preach the gospel to non-Jews. You don't necessarily have to spend years in formal preparation to do ministry. We do ministry everyday in every interaction and conversation in which we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us. However, we still have a responsibility to study, learn and grow to prepare ourselves for the moments God chooses to uniquely use us to advance His kingdom. How are you doing at preparing yourself by growing in your walk with the Lord?

(vv. 1-5) Near the beginning of his ministry, Paul took Barnabas (a Jewish believer) and Titus (a gentile believer) with him for a meeting with the leadership of the church in Jerusalem. Paul wanted to be sure that Christian Jews were preaching the same gospel that he was preaching and he wanted to see how they would respond to a Gentile believer who did not follow any Jewish customs. But no matter the response he could have gotten, Paul was committed to the gospel he had been preaching, because he knew his message was from God.

(vv. 6-10) What Paul found was that the leaders of the Jewish Christian church were preaching the same gospel that he was. They weren't requiring Gentiles to obey the Mosaic Law of circumcision in order to be considered a believer. Peter, James & John gave Paul the "right hand of fellowship" which means they endorsed his ministry, acknowledged his position as an apostle, and they agreed with his gospel because it was the same one they were preaching. That is, right standing with God is obtained by faith in Jesus Christ and nothing else!

(vv. 11-21) In this section, Paul addresses Peter's hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is when your behavior does not line up with what you say you believe. Peter said he believed that salvation was by grace through faith and acted in line with this belief until other Jews came into the picture. Then, he began to act as if Gentiles needed to do "Jewish things" to be in fellowship with him. He did this publicly, so Paul had to call him out publicly. Is there an area of your life in which your beliefs and your behavior don't line up? Is there someone you need to call out with gentleness and respect?

This Week's Assignments

_____ will share the gospel.

_____ will share a 3-minute personal testimony.

_____ will lead the discussion.

Discuss

Questions I want to ask at Small Group about this chapter:

Know and Do

In your opinion, what's the most important idea that you will take away from this chapter?

How does this chapter move you to action? After reading this chapter, what would God have you start doing, stop doing, or keep doing?

October 28

Galatians 3

Key Points

(vv. 1-5) The Judaizers were preaching a false gospel to the churches in Galatia. They preached that Gentiles had to become Jews in order to become Christians, or if they claimed to be Christians they had to follow Jewish customs, namely circumcision. Paul was clearly frustrated that the Galatians had allowed themselves to be deceived by “the newest preachers in town”. Paul refutes this false teaching by making the point that salvation from beginning to end is by grace through faith in Christ. We are justified, sanctified and glorified by grace through faith.

(vv. 6-9) There was never a point in history where salvation was accomplished by works. From before the Law was even given, Abraham was declared righteous because of His faith in God. Those who have right standing with God today aren’t people who do enough good stuff or are very moral people, but rather people who share the faith of Abraham. Are you ever tempted to think that this version of salvation seems too easy? Are you tempted to buy the lie that you need to work to receive God’s approval?

(vv. 10-14) Paul gives several reasons why doing anything outside of trusting in the work of Christ really makes no sense. First, he argues that if you’re going to rely on works, you can’t be 90% perfect or even 99%, you have to be 100% perfect, which is impossible. Second, he argues that the Law was never meant to be the means through which we have right standing with God anyway. Third, it was always God’s plan to make salvation available to all through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Christ became cursed so that we who deserve a curse might be set free!

(vv. 15-29) The Law was introduced 430 years after the promise of salvation was made to Abraham and so it really is illogical to think that the Law that came later supercedes God’s initial promise that we would be made righteous by faith in Abraham’s seed i.e. Christ. So what was the point of the Law then? The Law brings to light the need for salvation and our inability to accomplish it on our own. Ultimately, the Law leaves us hopeless, looking for hope. Praise God that hope is here through the Son of God!

This Week's Assignments

_____ will share the gospel.

_____ will share a 3-minute personal testimony.

_____ will lead the discussion.

Discuss

Questions I want to ask at Small Group about this chapter:

Know and Do

In your opinion, what's the most important idea that you will take away from this chapter?

How does this chapter move you to action? After reading this chapter, what would God have you start doing, stop doing, or keep doing?

Galatians 4

Key Points

(vv. 1-3) Paul summarizes the argument he had been making in chapter 3: Before Christ came, both Jew and Gentile tried to find freedom and right relationship with God through Jewish and pagan religions respectively. What they thought was bringing freedom was really pointing out how enslaved and hopeless they were.

(v. 4) One might be tempted to ask “Why didn’t God send Jesus way earlier than He did?” or “Why isn’t God answering my prayer? Why is He taking so long to act?” Verse 4 answers all of these questions. God sent Jesus in “the fullness of time”. What does even mean? It means that at the most strategic and pivotal point in human history, the savior of the world appeared. Rome had brought peace, stability and a road system for travel to the known world, Greek was the common language of all the people, the Jews were eagerly and painfully waiting for their promised Messiah. So God in His sovereignty and omniscience (all knowing) chose this moment.

(vv. 5-7) Every person who places their trust in Christ is adopted into the family of God and becomes a family relative of Christ (Hebrews 2:11)! It’s crazy to even try to conceptualize that fact. You and I are children of the Creator of the universe with the full benefits and blessing when we trust the sacrifice of His son. That is good news!

(vv. 8-20) Because of the good news he just shared, Paul’s frustration in this section can be felt in his words. He basically says, “You have been adopted into God’s family by grace through faith and somehow you’ve been deceived into thinking that obeying rules and regulations is what brings you into his family! Are you kidding me?!” How have you been guilty of trying to make your salvation & growth in Christ “Jesus + something else”?

(vv. 21-30) The story Paul uses as a metaphor here is recorded in Genesis 16 & 21. Hagar represents the Old Testament Law and sacrificial system, while Sarah represents the New Covenant and right relationship with God through Christ. Eventually Hagar (OT sacrificial system) was sent away and Sarah (New Covenant) took her place. Christ ushered in the age of the New Covenant where trust in Him (and nothing else) leads to right relationship with God!

This Week's Assignments

_____ will share the gospel.

_____ will share a 3-minute personal testimony.

_____ will lead the discussion.

Discuss

Questions I want to ask at Small Group about this chapter:

Know and Do

In your opinion, what's the most important idea that you will take away from this chapter?

How does this chapter move you to action? After reading this chapter, what would God have you start doing, stop doing, or keep doing?

November 18

Galatians 5

Key Points

(v. 1) Christ sacrificed Himself on the cross to bring us freedom from trying to gain acceptance with God through any other way. Christ set us free so that we could live in freedom to love and serve Him, not to gain His approval through our own efforts. Paul calls us to stand firm in this truth no matter how appealing another way might seem.

(vv. 2-12) Paul argues that if anyone tries to add anything to salvation other than grace through faith in Christ, what they are actually doing is rejecting grace through faith in Christ and subjecting themselves to living by some other code that will never lead to relationship with God. Any person or church that teaches that something else needs to be added to placing one's faith in Christ for salvation is rejecting grace and returning to law which cannot save.

(vv. 13-15) The freedom that we have been called to live in is a freedom to serve others and not a freedom to sin. In freedom to serve, our relationships with others get a chance to grow. If we use our freedom to sin, every relationship is damaged. Do you have any damaged relationships that need healing?

(vv. 16-21) To walk by the Spirit is to live a life of total dependence on God, because without Him, we would live out the works of the flesh. Walking by the Spirit is a daily dependence on God to help us think, speak, act, treat others differently etc. To walk by the Spirit, you inform your heart of the Spirit's desire by reading His word and living it out, you allow yourself to be held accountable by others who are seeking to honor the Lord, and you constantly ask the question, "How can I serve that other person in this situation"?

(vv. 22-26) Jesus doesn't just save us from eternal punishment, He transforms our life now if we submit to Him daily! His work on the cross broke the power of sin over us, and now we have the freedom to choose to obey God! The life of a believer should be marked by the fruit described in these verses if they are daily seeking God, His word and community to encourage them in their walk. How are you doing at walking by the Spirit?

This Week's Assignments

_____ will share the gospel.

_____ will share a 3-minute personal testimony.

_____ will lead the discussion.

Discuss

Questions I want to ask at Small Group about this chapter:

Know and Do

In your opinion, what's the most important idea that you will take away from this chapter?

How does this chapter move you to action? After reading this chapter, what would God have you start doing, stop doing, or keep doing?

December 2

Galatians 6

Key Points

(vv. 1-5) When we see a fellow believer caught or trapped under the weight of sin, our response should be to gently and cautiously restore that person. In Paul's eyes, the Christian life is a group effort. We shouldn't think of our walk with Christ as a private journey with no regard for how anyone else is doing. Christianity is a personal journey that we embark on in community. The goal is to help each other grow in Christ, because ultimately, we are all a part of Christ's body. In some mysterious way, helping others grow in Christ, helps us to grow ourselves.

(v. 6) Here Paul gives a real life example of how the body of Christ can bear the burden of other believers. He talks about the fact that those whose job is to teach God's word should be supported by the ones they teach. This verse emphasizes the importance of giving financially to the church that you faithfully attend, serve and are a member at. See 2 Cor. 9:6-7. What are your thoughts on the importance of giving to your church?

(vv. 7-10) In the immediate context, Paul is arguing that if a person uses their funds to support the Lord's work, they will reap fruit that has eternal benefit as teachers continue to share the gospel and the Holy Spirit transforms lives. But if someone uses their funds to support their own selfish and sinful desires, the fruit they reap will be temporary and ineffective. In the broader context of the Christian life, these verses also teach us that actions have consequences, if you choose to live a life that honors the Lord, there will be great spiritual benefit. If you choose to live a life of seeking your own pleasure, the consequences are painful.

(vv. 11-18) Paul decides to write the last words with his own hand. He had probably been dictating the words of the letter to a scribe, but wanted to authenticate the letter by writing part of it. He makes one final call to the Jew and Gentile believers in the region of Galatia to not be deceived by Judaizers and other false teachers that try to add to or change the gospel. The gospel is Christ crucified, dead, buried and risen again to offer eternal life and a transformed life now. Our only point of boasting is in what Christ has done for us. Without him we can do nothing!

This Week's Assignments

_____ will share the gospel.

_____ will share a 3-minute personal testimony.

_____ will lead the discussion.

Discuss

Questions I want to ask at Small Group about this chapter:

Know and Do

In your opinion, what's the most important idea that you will take away from this chapter?

How does this chapter move you to action? After reading this chapter, what would God have you start doing, stop doing, or keep doing?

**KNOWN & TAUGHT ABOUT
ACCEPTED JESUS**

CHALLENGED TO GROW



shorelinedallas