



Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

Read Together

Paul's letter to the Galatians is direct and to the point. In the words of one scholar, "Omitting any thanksgiving for the Galatians, Paul immediately decries their 'flirtation with 'another gospel'", one that is causing many to stumble and fall away from true faith in Christ. This false gospel that many Galatians believed is a variation of a false Gospel that plagues many still today: "Jesus + 'something else' = true salvation".

The true Gospel of Jesus Christ stands against the burdens of legalism and rebukes the "anything goes" mentality of licentiousness and immorality. Throughout the letter to Galatians, Paul articulates and re-articulates the true Gospel of Jesus Christ so that his readers—ancient and modern—can experience the freedom and liberty that comes from truly knowing Christ as Lord and Savior.

Outline of Galatians

- I. Introduction (Galatians 1:1-2:21)
 - A. Greeting (Galatians 1:1-5)
 - B. The problem the letter addresses (Galatians 1:6-10)
 - C. The Gospel and the difference it made (Galatians 1:11-2:21)
- II. The Defense of the Gospel (Galatians 3:1-4:11)
 - A. How are we saved? (Galatians 3:1-6)
 - B. Who can be saved? (Galatians 3:7-18)
 - C. Why being good isn't good enough? (Galatians 3:19-24)
 - D. What is our new identity? (Galatians 3:25-4:11)
- III. A Call to Freedom (Galatians 4:12-6:10)
 - A. Live in freedom from the law (Galatians 4:12-20)
 - B. Stand in freedom (Galatians 4:21-31)
 - C. Resist bondage (Galatians 5:1-12)
 - D. Live out freedom in the Spirit (Galatians 5:13-6:10)
- IV. Closing (Galatians 6:11-18)

Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.

- Paul begins his letter to the churches in Galatia by presenting the authority upon which he writes. On what authority does Paul write? Why is this significant?
- Immediately following his introduction, Paul transitions to a concise summary of the Gospel (Galatians 1:3-5). Why? (Consider the rebuke that follows in verses 6-9.) Why must we regularly present and re-present the fullness of the Gospel?



- Expository preaching is a style of preaching that seeks to explain or describe the text of Scripture in a way that is faithful to the inspired meaning the Holy Spirit intended. It is the primary form of preaching you experience at Warren. Tim Keller provides a more thorough definition:

Expository preaching grounds the message in the text so that all the sermon's points are the points in the text, and it majors in the text's major ideas. It aligns the interpretation of the text with the doctrinal truths of the rest of the Bible (being sensitive to systematic theology). And it always situates the passage within the Bible's narrative, showing how Christ is the final fulfillment of the text's theme (being sensitive to biblical theology).

One of the hallmarks of expository preaching is a verse-by-verse, phrase-by-phrase, word-by-word study of a passage of Scripture. In this exercise, you will play the role of the expositor by looking at several phrases that appear in Galatians 1:3-5 and answering the questions that follow each phrase.

- *“the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself”* — How did Jesus give Himself? Why did Jesus give Himself? Was it necessary for Jesus to give Himself? How does this align with the rest of the Bible?
 - *“for our sins”* — Why are our sins a problem in the first place? What can we offer to correct the problem caused by our sin? Why is it necessary for Jesus to make atonement for our sins? How does this align with the rest of the Bible?
 - *“to deliver us”* — What did we need delivering from? Who needs deliverance? What does this tell us about mankind? What does this tell us about God? How does this align with the rest of the Bible? What would it look like to live as freed men and women?
 - *“from the present evil age”* — What was so evil about life in the first century? Is our age more evil than theirs? Describe deliverance from “the present evil age” in our 21st Century North American context.
 - *“according to the will of our God and Father”* — What does it mean that Jesus’ sacrifice and our deliverance happens according to the will of God? What does this tell us about God? How does this align with the rest of the Bible?
 - *“to whom be the glory forever and ever”* — Why is God the Father worthy of our glory forever and ever?
- Having answered these questions, write your own concise summary of the Gospel and what it means for you. Share your summary with the group.
 - Is Christ’s substitutionary sacrifice enough to deliver you from the wrath of God against sin? Why? Discuss why someone may believe differently than you do.

How I must obey Christ...

- Examine yourself. As a result of this study, identify a specific area in which you need to obey Christ this week.
- How do you specifically need to obey Christ in this area this week?
- How can Jesus redeem this area? How has He proven that in Scripture?
- Who will keep you accountable to this commitment this week?

Pray Together

Read and pray through Galatians 1:3-5.

