



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

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and that experience is the teacher of all things. Can you think of a better way to help a person learn than through the use of visual aids and hands-on experience? Paul's call to the Galatians to live by faith was not merely words expressed without evidence based on experiential context. His call to believers of Galatia was based on Christ's portrayal of grace by faith as He hung on the Cross. Vivid images of grace should have been seared into the minds and hearts of the Galatians forever. But it wasn't. Their foolishness eclipsed their memories of the Cross that Paul had painted for them. They were bewitched—fascinated by the juxtaposition of the Law and faith, the flesh and the Spirit, righteousness lived out by faith.

We are often bewitched by the world. We become fascinated with what we can see, feel, touch, and taste, because those things seem more real to us. Subtleties creep into our lives, causing us to bend toward legalism and away from liberty. Our flesh wins at times, and our need to perform attempts to overshadow Jesus' work of grace on the Cross. What can we do to ensure we live lives of faith and freedom? Just as the Galatians, we must permanently place before our eyes the image of Christ crucified. The visual of Jesus' work of redemption, reminds us that we did nothing, and He did everything. And our response to His goodness should be a life lived by faith.

Discuss Together

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

- Read Galatians 3:1-11. Paul asks the Galatians a series of rhetorical questions to remind them of the most important and foundational truth of the Gospel. His first question is, "Who has bewitched you?" The word bewitched in the Greek is the word *baskaino*, which means *to fascinate by false representations or to charm*. Look back at Galatians 2:15-21. What had they become bewitched by and why was this a problem?
- Just as believers in Galatia became bewitched by a false way to justification, so believers today can as well. Why do you think we are so often drawn to the Law and legalism rather than grace and faith? (It may help to review the definition of faith as given in Hebrews 11:1.)
- Our need to control, our performancism, our personal satisfaction, and even our senses can draw us toward the Law and legalism and away from a life of faith and growth. Discuss how you've seen this to be true in the following areas:
 - Worship style or the worship styles of others
 - Daily Bible study
 - Tithing
 - Serving
 - Gospel conversations with unbelievers
 - Stepping out of your comfort zone



- According to Romans 8:2-6, do believers receive the Spirit, by the Law or by faith? Explain.
- In Galatians 3:2-5, Paul contrasts the Spirit and the flesh.
 - What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer?
 - What does the Bible say about our flesh or sinful nature? (See Romans 7:15-18, 8:5-6, Galatians 5:16-25)
- Talk about ways believers can guard against the flesh as they live by faith?
- Read Galatians 3:6-11. Discuss how Abraham lived by faith. How was obedience, as a result of faith in God, evident in his life?
- What does a life of faith look like for the believer and how does a life of faith impact others?
- What evidences of obedience are being displayed in your life currently?

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

Ask the Spirit to direct, empower, and fuel your life this week as you live by faith.

