



## 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

How is a man or woman justified? What can break the curse of sin in a person's life? The curse of death, brought about by the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden, could only be broken by the sinless Creator. The spell of sin would forever remain and claim the heart of man without the everlasting love of the Father. What would God do to break the spell of sin and death? How would He point His people to that which was righteous, holy, and just while they lived in a fallen world? When would the curse be forever broken, so that those whom He created could find freedom from the chains of sin that held His beloved in bondage?

God had a plan, and His plan was to provide salvation through faith alone, protection through the Law, and the promise of eternal life through the Spirit. Sin and death would be banished through one seed—Jesus. God, in His faithfulness, cut covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15 to instill in us the truth that righteousness comes through faith alone. He did not stop there. In mercy, God gave the Law in addition to the Abrahamic Covenant as a protection for His people. Then in His most magnificent act of Grace, God broke the curse of sin forever when His Son, Jesus, offered His body as the new and lasting Covenant. The Law, once written on stone, would now be written on the hearts of believers. The Spirit would now circumcise each heart, ratifying Jesus' Covenant, making it solid, safe, and secure forever.

## Discuss Together

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

- Read Galatians 3:10-29. In verse 10 Paul speaks of a curse. Discuss the curse from Genesis 3. In Genesis 3:15 the word "offspring" is translated as "seed." To what seed was God ultimately referring? What does God say this seed will do?
- In Genesis 12:1-3, God calls Abram. What did God promise Abram? In Genesis 15:1-6 Abram expresses doubt because he has no offspring, and God renews His promise with him. What is said about Abram in verse 6 and what is he credited with? Compare this with Galatians 3:11.
- Continue reading Genesis 15:7-20. God establishes the Abrahamic Covenant in this passage. Talk about this Covenant using the prompts below:
  - Who initiated the covenant?
  - Who was responsible for keeping the covenant?
  - Was this covenant the result of works of any kind?
  - How secure was this covenant?
  - God speaks of Abraham's offspring or seed (singular). Who is the seed of Abraham? (See Genesis 12:7 and Galatians 3:16)
  - Did Abraham's seed come by the Law or by promise? (Galatians 3:18)
  - How did God continue to work in Abraham's life to fulfill His promise through the generations of descendants?



- 430 years after God's Covenant with Abraham, He gives the Mosaic Law to the people of Israel. This is why the people in Galatia were bewitched and confused in Galatians 3. Reread Galatians 3:15-22. Discuss the reason for their confusion. Explain the significance of the promise and provision of the Abrahamic Covenant and the necessity of the Law. How does the Law help us see our need for a Savior? (See Galatians 3:19-22)
- Paul asks a rhetorical question in verse 21 saying, "Is the law then contrary to the promises of God?" Many people today live life as though the Law contradicts God's promises, believing that salvation through works is the way to heaven. How would you explain to someone that the law reveals sin and purposes to protect us but does not save us? (See Galatians 3:23-29 & Romans 3:21-26)
- What does the New Covenant do that the Old Covenant could not do? (See Hebrews 10:16-17, Jeremiah 31:33-34, & Ezekiel 35:26-27) Who helps the New Covenant believer internalize the law and live by grace through faith?
- What is the result of a New Covenant relationship in the life of the believer? How does a New Covenant relationship with Jesus break the curse of sin in a believer's life, freeing them from bondage? Give a specific example from your own life of this freedom.
- How do you see the faithfulness, love, and transcendence of God when studying the three Covenants of Grace?

### 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

In her book, *Our Covenant God*, Kay Arthur says, "The Old Covenant exposed our sin and our need. The New Covenant provides the solution: the Holy Spirit. The Old Covenant enlightened. The New Covenant empowers. The Old Covenant revealed our sin. The New Covenant releases us from sin's power." Spend time every day this week praising and thanking God for the New Covenant He made with us through His Precious Son, Jesus.

