



Join the *Discover the Word* team for something new—an extended study of a particular book of the Bible. Throughout this six week series, we'll consider a piece of mail—Paul's letter to the Galatians—and see what we can discover together from this sometimes personal, often combative, and completely important letter. Use this study to start the conversation.



### THIS WEEK'S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read Galatians 1:1–5. What are the key elements of Paul's introduction? Be prepared to track the ideas of "grace" and "peace" throughout the letter as we study it together.
- In Galatians 1:6–9, we find the primary issue Paul is writing to address: the believers in the Galatian churches are moving away from the gospel of grace and embracing the law of Moses. Why is this so dangerous? How do we see it still occurring in our day?
- The antagonists who were pushing these Christ-followers back to the law of Moses were known as Judaizers because they were trying to enforce the rules of Judaism on Christians. What might that look like today?
- In Galatians 1:13–18, Paul begins telling his personal faith story. Read Acts 9:1–31 for the details of Paul's salvation experience. Why is a transformed life such a powerful witness to the rescuing love of Christ?



### CHALLENGE

As you reflect on Paul's story of transformation, think about how God has changed you. Write down how His transforming power has worked in your life.



### COMMIT TO MEMORY

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forevermore"  
(Galatians 1:3–5 NASB).



### PRAYER

Father, I thank You for Your grace—the free gift of forgiveness and life You have given us in Jesus. Forgive me for the times I try to earn Your love in my own strength, and enable me to live in the liberating reality that Your perfect love is perfectly unconditional! Amen.



**Our exciting adventure to examine Paul’s letter to one of the ancient churches continues in chapter 2 of the book of Galatians. Here we’ll see how Paul deals with situations that involve both cooperation and conflict. And we’ll discover how God calls us as Christians to effectively and peacefully work together.**



### THIS WEEK’S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read Galatians 2:1–5. Where do you find elements of cooperation in the service of Christ in this passage? How does Paul model this important value?
- In Galatians 2:1–5, we also see conflict. Where is that conflict coming from? How does Paul describe its danger?
- Read Galatians 2:6–10. The old adage says that more hands make for light work. How did the leaders of the Jerusalem church join with Paul in sharing the work of the gospel? What was the responsibility entrusted to each side, and how was it embraced?
- Arguably one of the greatest scriptural statements on life in Christ is Galatians 2:20. How does Paul describe Christ’s role in this life, and how does he describe ours? Do you find this challenging or liberating? Why?



### CHALLENGE

As you reflect on Galatians 2:20, take time to journal how you can cooperate with Christ to live effectively in the grace of God.



### COMMIT TO MEMORY

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me”  
(Galatians 2:20).



### PRAYER

Gracious God, I thank You for not holding us to the demands of the law but offering us grace—free, undeserved favor. Help me to resist the urge to try to make myself deserving of Your love, and to receive it as freely as You have offered it. Thank You for Your love—and the cross of Christ which shows how extravagant this eternal, unchanging love truly is. Amen.



**“In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.” Galatians 3:26**

**In part 3 of our study of Galatians, we look at chapter 3 and Paul’s somewhat harsh statement, “You foolish Galatians” (v. 1). We consider how this statement comes from his deep love for them. We also explore the message of the false teachers who are trying to convince the Galatians they have to perform for God’s approval and love. Paul challenges them not to be slow of heart to believe, and ends part 3 with the appeal to become “clothed with Christ.”**



### THIS WEEK’S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The word foolish at the beginning of Galatians 3 means “ignorant,” and it’s used in Luke 24:25 by Jesus on the road to Emmaus when he suggested the two men were “slow of heart to believe.” What does it mean to be slow of heart? Have you ever been “slow of heart to believe”?
- The primary struggle in Galatians 3 is that the Galatians felt they needed to somehow win God’s approval. Paul wanted them to realize God loved them and accepted them by grace and not by works. Do you ever feel that way? Do you ever feel that God only loves you or accepts you depending on how well you perform for Him?
- Why is it freeing to know that we can’t earn our way to heaven—that grace is a gift?
- Paul often reminds the Galatians of God’s timeline of faithfulness toward them—all the ways in which God was faithful to them in the past. How has God been faithful to you? How does looking back on God’s faithfulness help strengthen your faith in the future?
- Paul ends Galatians 3 declaring that the law can’t bring life, peace, or unity. Instead, we must be “clothed” with Christ (v. 27). What does it mean to be clothed with Christ?



### CHALLENGE

Pull out a piece of paper and write down all of the things you feel you are supposed to “do” for God to make Him happy. After you make your list, say out loud, “I’m a child of God, and He loves me. Nothing I can do, will make Him love me more. If I \_\_\_\_\_ [read off one item on your list] it’s not to earn forgiveness or love but is an overflow of love ‘because he first loved [me]’ (1 John 4:19).” Repeat for each item on your list.



### COMMIT TO MEMORY

“In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.”  
Galatians 3:26



### PRAYER

God, help me to understand that Your love for me is unconditional and real. Please give me a tangible sense of Your love. Help me to accept Your free gift of grace, without feeling any pressure to earn it. Amen.



**“Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’ So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir” (Galatians 4:6–7 NIV).**

**In our study of Galatians 4, we explore a series of metaphors Paul used to help the Galatians understand the role of the Old Testament Law. Paul wanted them to realize they were now children of the Almighty God and no longer slaves but free to know God and be known by Him. Not only were they children of God, but they were also beloved children who could come to the Father and cry, “Abba!” “Daddy!”**



### THIS WEEK’S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are legal guardians, and why are they important for children who have no parents? What do you think Paul means when he calls the law a guardian to protect us until we come of age through faith? Read Galatians 4:4–5. Are we still under the “guardian” of the law?
- What does it mean that we are “adopted” as sons and daughters of God? How does that make you feel?
- The word “Abba” is an affectionate and loving term—like you and me using the word “Daddy.” Do you feel that God is close enough to call Him Daddy? Why or why not?
- It’s painful for Paul to watch as the Galatians are led astray by false teachers. He says it’s like the “pains of childbirth” (4:19). Have you ever watched someone you love go down the wrong path? Did you try to help them? What was that like?
- Paul writes that we are now “heirs” of God. What does that mean?



### CHALLENGE

God is powerful, mighty, and deserves to be feared, but he is also close, loving, and wants us to call Him “Daddy.” Spend a minute or two talking to God as if He were a close friend or a loving and affectionate father. Picture Him sitting on a couch asking you to tell Him all that’s going on in your life. Think about how praying like this affects you. (See example below)



### COMMIT TO MEMORY

“Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’ So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir” (Galatians 4:6–7 NIV).



### PRAYER

Hey, Daddy! I need Your help. I want to show You the respect You deserve as the God of the universe, but I also want a hug. I want to lean my head against Your shoulder and rest knowing You’re in control of everything and have my back. Here’s what’s going on in my life: \_\_\_\_\_. I could really use Your help and advice right now. Amen.



**As Paul continues his circular letter to the churches in the region of Galatia, who struggled with the teaching that “more” had to be added to grace in order to make it a legitimate solution for our human need, his words become more practical. And yet he holds on to his major goal to correct the false teaching of adding anything to grace. His main point? It’s up to God to give grace. It’s up to us to embrace grace and employ it in our lives.**



### THIS WEEK'S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read Galatians 4:31–5:6. Have you been offered the freedom of grace but hold back from actually receiving it? Why might this be?
- In Galatians 5:7–12, Paul woos the Galatians to respond to the One who called them. Where are you struggling to discern God’s leading in your life? How does understanding that God is not a God of confusion help you? (See 1 Corinthians 14:33.)
- Throughout Galatians, Paul has been emphasizing our need to move on from being enslaved to the law or adding “rules” to grace. Read Galatians 5:13–15. Paul challenges us to become enslaved to something else. What is it?
- When we embrace grace, we’re able to live differently. In Galatians 5:16–21, Paul describes the works of the flesh. How do we avoid them?
- The result of walking in the Spirit—and embracing grace—is that God grows more grace in us. What are the nine fruit of the Spirit Paul cites in Galatians 5:22–23? How can they be seen as “graces”?



### CHALLENGE

Examine your life and consider where you might still be adding to grace. Think about how you can let God love you and how you can love Him back by embracing His grace.



### COMMIT TO MEMORY

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourself be burdened again by a yoke of slavery... rather, serve one another in love”  
(Galatians 5:1, 13).



### PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for Your grace! May I love You well by embracing the grace You so freely offer. Amen.



**As Paul concludes his letter to the churches of Galatia, he underlines his ongoing concern that they avoid the false teaching of adding to God’s grace. He extends great compassion to all his readers: both to those embracing grace and to the Judaizers speaking against it. His great concern is that all embrace God’s grace and live it out in relationship together.**



### THIS WEEK’S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read Galatians 5:26–6:1. Paul identifies the interpersonal crisis occurring in the churches due to false teaching. How does he nudge us forward in our relationships with those who are struggling with sin?
- In Galatians 6:2–6 Paul describes both helping others carry burdens and carrying our own. In our modern day, we might call this practice using our “boundaries.” What can you learn from Paul’s words?
- Paul talks about “the proper time” as well as making the most of opportunities in extending grace (vv. 7–11). How does God’s timing direct all of our interactions with each other?
- Read Galatians 6:11–13. What might Paul mean when he says he’s writing with “large letters”? And how does he summarize his final points to the Galatians in verses 12–13?
- In verses 14–18 Paul concludes his letter in a manner different from most of his other letters. Read the end of Philippians, Colossians, and Ephesians. How are Paul’s words different as he concludes Galatians? Why do you think this is?



### CHALLENGE

As you reflect on our study of Galatians, take time to write down everything you’ve learned to help you grow in your relationships with God and others.



### COMMIT TO MEMORY

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. . . . Each one should carry their own load” (Galatians 6:2,5).



### PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for teaching me about Your grace and that grace alone brings us life in You. Amen.