

# “Family In Christ”

**Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.**

## Message Summary

Shortly after Paul planted the churches in the southern region of Galatia false teachers came in and taught that a person must not only believe in Jesus but also convert to Judaism in order to have eternal life. In other words, these false teachers taught people their righteousness was based on their works rather than the righteousness of Jesus Christ alone. So Paul wrote to these confused Galatian believers in order to correct this false teaching and help the churches live in the freedom they found in Jesus.

Throughout this letter Paul has argued for the fact that righteousness comes through faith in Jesus Christ. Previously in Chapter 3 Paul argued his point from the example of Abraham who believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness. Further, he argued his point from the example of Scripture, explaining that Scripture taught there were two paths, one of blessing and one of cursing. The path of faith leads to blessing but the path of trying to keep the Law leads to cursing. In other words, God has always acted the same. Salvation has always been through faith, even before the Law was given!

To further illustrate his point, Paul explained the difference between the Promise made in God’s covenant with Abraham and his offspring and the covenant God made with Moses. As a result, Paul foresaw the fact that some may wonder, “If salvation is through faith, then why was the Law given?” He explained the Law was given to imprison all under sin and to drive sinners to their only hope for eternal life, and that was to the Promised Offspring of Abraham; Jesus Christ!

In making his point, don’t forget that Paul was writing to “brothers.” These were believers, both men and women, who were confused about who they were and what they enjoyed in Christ. These were believers who were a family in Christ. Therefore, Paul wanted this family to understand who they trust, how they mature, and what they must unite around. As a family in Christ, we too must be reminded of these things. As Christians we trust Christ, mature through faith in Christ, and unite around what He has accomplished on our behalf.

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community ask yourself if you’re trusting in the Promise or your performance. Do you measure yours and the maturity of those around you by how many commands they obey or by how they trust Christ in the difficult situations of life? Is your Missional Community united around the Gospel or something else? Also be prepared to answer the normal questions listed on the back of this study guide as you prepare to meet with your Family In Christ!

## Message Outline

As the family in Christ:

1. **We trust in the Promise not our performance. (15-18)**
  - The Story of Redemption flows from the Abrahamic Covenant.
  - Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham.
  - Our inheritance comes from promise not law.
2. **We mature by trusting Christ not by keeping commands. (19-25)**
  - The Law was given to...
    - Increase sin.
    - Show the law itself is not the answer to our sin problem.
    - Drive sinners to the promise of Christ.
    - Babysit sinners until Christ came.
  - The Law and Promise are Complementary.  
All of Scripture...
    - Is authoritative for believers.
    - Must be read in light of the coming of Christ.
    - Points us to our need for Christ.
3. **We unite around the Gospel not genealogy, grade, or gender. (26-29)**  
In Christ we are...
  - A Family.
  - Righteous.
  - One.
  - Heirs according to promise.

## **Group Discussion**

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Galatians 3:15-29:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

## **Weekly Prayer Focus**

### • **Church:**

- Pray for families who will attend the First Steps Child Dedication class in September as well as the Child Dedication Service in October.
- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
- Pray for new DNA groups to start.

### • **Local:**

- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.

### • **Global:**

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.