

“Sons & Daughters of the King”

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 argued for the fact that righteousness comes through faith in Jesus Christ. 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! Chapter 3 ended with Paul illustrating the difference between the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants. Since the Covenant of Promise was given to Abraham, and since Jesus was the true offspring of Abraham, because of their faith in Jesus, the Galatians were now part of Abraham’s family.

Paul continued to clarify his point at the beginning of chapter 4. He began with an illustration. A child who was an heir to his father’s possessions did not receive his inheritance until he grew to maturity. While still a child, he really was no different from a slave. Paul used this illustration to explain the fact that everyone is enslaved to sin. Whether they were a Jew enslaved to the Law or a Gentile enslaved to their idols, all were born enslaved to sin. However, Jesus, the True Son and Heir of God who was born in the fullness of time, sent from God, born of a woman, and lived under the Law, was born to liberate believers from the bondage of sin. As a result, those who have faith in Jesus identify with Him as adopted sons and daughters and fellow-heirs of God. To prove this, God sent the Spirit of His Son into the hearts of all who believe in Jesus.

Paul’s words to the Galatians is good news not only for the Galatians but for us today! Those who believe in Jesus have been liberated from the bondage of sin. We now have an inheritance that does not fade away. We are sons and daughters of God who now cry out as Jesus did, “Abba Father!” We can, with joy in our hearts, call on our Father in the good times and bad times recognizing that God’s plan is best and we willingly obey.

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week examine your identity as a son or daughter of the King. Do you call on your Father with joy in your heart knowing His plan is best or do you complain to Him about what you don’t have? Also, be prepared to answer the questions on the next page as you meet with your brothers and sisters who are fellow-heirs and sons and daughters of the King!

Message Outline

The move from slave to sons & daughters:

1. **Everyone is born enslaved to sin. (1-3)**

- Under a curse.
- Under sin.
- Under the Law.
- Under a guardian.
- Under managers.
- Under idolatry.
- Under the Power of sin.

2. **Jesus was born to purchase our freedom from sin. (4-5a)**

- Jesus is the True Son & Heir.
 - Fully God.
 - Fully Man.
 - Completely Obedient.
- Jesus liberated us from the power of sin at the cost of His life.

3. **We Identify with Jesus. (5b-7)**

- Through adoption as sons and daughters.
- Through the Power of the Spirit.
- As Fellow-heirs with Christ.

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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 4:1-7:

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.