

Epistle of Paul to the

# Galatians

Free &

Filled

Galatians 3:19-4:31

Christ for Freedom  
set us free  
Galatians 5:1

LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY  
CORINTHIANS 3:16



"Let the Word of Christ  
dwell in you richly."

Colossians 3:16

# Lesson Four Day One



## Grace Group

Open with prayer then recite memory verse from the previous lesson.

Got Questions? If you have a question left unanswered or needing more clarification, this is a great time to make a note of it and share in the Q&R time following teaching.

### Thinking Back...

#### DAY   PAGES

- |      |       |  |
|------|-------|--|
| 1... | 65-66 | Share something you learned, loved, or were encouraged by from the previous message and/or Grace Group time. |
| 2... | 69-70 | Share your response to #3  |

### Share Your Responses...

- |       |       |                   |
|-------|-------|-------------------|
| 3...  | 71-72 | #s 2, 7, and 8    |
| 4...  | 73-74 | #s 2 and 5        |
| 5...  | 75-76 | #s 1, 2, and 8    |
| 6...  | 77-78 | #s 3, 5, and 7    |
| 7...  | 79-80 | #s 4, 5-9, and 12 |
| 8...  | 81-82 | #s 2, 5, and 7    |
| 9...  | 83-84 | #s 1, 4, and 8    |
| 10... | 85-86 | Create & Share    |

#### Up Next: Teaching

Take notes on the following page.

We believe God hears, sees, knows, and is ready to answer us and guide us when we pray.

Pray as you transition from Group to Teaching time for our fellowship to be God-honoring and focused on His word.

**You are loved and prayed for!**



# Lesson Four Day One

## Teaching Time

Review of Lesson Three - Galatians 2:7-3:18



*Watch/Listen to this message on the "Dwelling Richly" podcast - YouTube, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or any platform/app you enjoy.*

# Lesson Four Day One



## Day by Day

An overview of this lesson. Use the checklist to help you plan your Time With God: "TWiG Time."

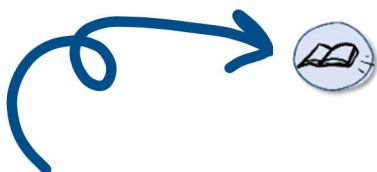
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>My Dates</u> | <u>Day</u> | <u>Content</u>  |
|---|------------|---|
| October 22 or 23                                    | 1          | Grace Groups & Teaching<br><u>Read &amp; Write the Word</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                            | 2          | <u>Galatians 3:19-4:31</u>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                            | 3          | Galatians 3:19-22   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                            | 4          | Galatians 3:23-29   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                            | 5          | Galatians 4:1-7   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                            | 6          | Galatians 4:8-11  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                            | 7          | Galatians 4:12-20   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                            | 8          | Galatians 4:21-27   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                            | 9          | Galatians 4:28-31   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                            | 10         | Create & Share  |
| November 5 or 6                                     | 14         | Grace Groups & Teaching<br>Review Lesson 4                  |

### ...Memorize & Meditate...

Galatians 4:4-5

From the English Standard Version

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons (Memorize from any translation.)



This Blue Bible button points out ways you can Dwell Deeper in your studies!

Tight on Time? Look for the Yellow Hearts button and respond to these.



### ...Write the Word...

Galatians 3:19-4:31

"Write the Word" pages are available printed for you at Bible study or on the Bible study webpage for you to download and print.

We will begin writing Galatians in Day Three of this lesson. Daily writing portions will be the same as the daily reading portion.

Let writing the Word be an act of meditation. We have so many busy interruptions in our lives. Allow writing to be a time free of distraction for you to simply immerse yourself in His Word – a beautiful way to "let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly."

# Lesson Four Day One

## My Heart to Yours...

Imagine your phone rings, and on the other end is a no-nonsense lawyer. He confirms your name and says, "Well, it turns out you've come into an inheritance."

What?! You blink, unsure if this is real. He explains that a distant relative—some wealthy uncle you never knew—has passed away, and you are the heir to his estate. The possibilities race through your mind: A mansion? A beach house? A secret Swiss bank account? Maybe you'll quit your job, buy that dream car, and marvel at life's crazy twists. It all sounds too good to be true.

And if you're like me, the next thought is, "Okay... what's the catch?" Experience teaches us that things that seem too good to be true often are.

But imagine the lawyer insisting: "No strings attached. It's all real—and it's all yours." That kind of news would leave anyone speechless.

Hold on to that feeling—the thrill, the disbelief, the wonder. As amazing as it would be to receive an inheritance from a long-lost uncle, there is something far greater, more secure, and without a catch. This inheritance is guaranteed by God Himself.

In Galatians 3:29, Paul reveals an incredible truth: "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise." This isn't just a feel-good statement—it's a declaration of a cosmic inheritance with eternal significance. If you are in Christ, you aren't just forgiven and given a clean slate (as wonderful as that is!). You are welcomed into God's family and share in everything promised to Abraham.

This inheritance doesn't begin someday in the distant future—it starts now. It means you belong. You are part of something bigger than yourself, grounded in God's unchanging promises. There's no fine print or loopholes, no wondering if you're good enough. Through faith in Jesus, you're already an heir.

And here's the beauty of it: this inheritance is not earned. God doesn't keep score to see if you measure up. It's freely given—grace through faith. Just as Abraham believed God and was counted as righteous, so we are justified by faith—not works (Galatians 3:6-9).

Think about that. The idea of a surprise inheritance from a rich uncle might sound life-changing, but the truth that you are God's heir through Christ is life-changing. It frees you from the exhausting effort of trying to earn God's favor or prove your worth. You can live with confidence, knowing that everything God has promised is already yours.

What's even better? This inheritance isn't subject to market crashes or world events. It's secure in Christ, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and guaranteed by God's faithfulness. There's no lawyer calling to say, "Oops, there's been a mistake." This inheritance will never perish, spoil, or fade (1 Peter 1:4).

I invite you to lean into this truth. Feel the weight of this promise. This is the heart of the Gospel: God, in His grace, offers you an inheritance beyond your wildest dreams. And through Christ—it's already yours.

Now that is something worth celebrating.







Free and filled,

 Jennifer

# Lesson Four Day Two

## Memorize & Meditate

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*

- 1.  Pray...for your Grace Group
- 2.  Memorize/Meditate Gal. 4:4-5 trace over in RED.
- 3.  Simply Read Galatians 2:7-3:18
- 4.  Write the Word (begins Day Three)
- 5.  Community Check in & say "hi" in the group.
- 6.  Worship \_\_\_\_\_

*"As we search the Scriptures, we must allow them to search us, to sit in judgment upon our character and conduct."  
-Jerry Bridges*

### Thinking Back...

1. **Teaching Time & Grace Groups.** What was a helpful or encouraging point? Note also any lingering questions.



2. **Two Truths & a Lie.** Review Galatians 2:7-3:18. Write two truths and a "lie" based on this passage. Write them in any order - truth, truth, lie / lie, truth, truth / truth, lie, truth, etc.



(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For the Lie: Why did you choose that idea, concept, truth to "twist" or make into a lie?



Rewrite the "lie" here as a truth:

### Looking Ahead. - D.W.E.L.L.

**FIRST:** Read this passage aloud. **THEN:** D.W.E.L.L. through each day's reading.

*Look for: temporal words like: until, now, before, etc. and the nature of God (Father, Son, Spirit)*

3. **Galatians 3:19-22** (reading for Day Three)



# Lesson Four Day Two

4. Galatians 3:23-29 (reading for Day Four)

5. Galatians 4:1-7 (reading for Day Five)

6. Galatians 4:8-11 (reading for Day Six)

7. Galatians 4:12-20 (reading for Day Seven)

*This is Buddy Day! Enjoy connecting with your Bible study buddy. Share what you learned and bless one another.*

8. Galatians 4:21-27 (reading for Day Eight)




9. Galatians 4:28-31 (reading for Day Nine)

*Today is a good day to look ahead to Day Ten, "Create & Share."*



# Lesson Four Day Three

## Memorize & Meditate

- 1.  **Pray...**for Grace Group leaders
- 2.  **Memorize/Meditate** Gal. 4:4-5 - Create a fill-in-the-blank.
-  Send it to your Study Buddy. Complete each other's and share both in the group

- 3.  **Simply Read and Write** Gal. 3:19-22 Printed "Write the Word" pages available at Bible study, or download/print from the Dwelling Richly web page.

### Thinking Back...

1. **Choose Carefully!** (Gal. 3:7-18) Paul is trying to give the Galatians a "Hey, wait a minute!" moment to really think about what they've been doing and why it's "anathema!" (1) What was Paul's point in going back to the covenant made with Abraham? (2) How should this point help them - and us - rethink any "foolish" and "bewitched" actions? (3) What is true of those who rely on the Law? What is true of those who rely on faith?



- (1)
- (2)
- (3)

### Dwelling in the Word.

2. **Hey, Wait a Minute!** (3:19) In another kind of, "Hey, wait a minute!" moment, Paul anticipates what people might say when reminded of the truth that "the law is not of faith" (3:12) and relying on works places you "under a curse" (3:10). Write the opening rhetorical question in 3:19 and then break down how Paul answers the very question he anticipates:

The Question:

The Answer:  
Why was the Law added?

This part of Paul's answer assumes we recall that the "Law" and the covenant God made with His people at Sinai came after another covenant promise - the one he reviewed in 3:7-18. What was that first promise?

What was the end anticipated for the Law? (Review 3:16, Lesson 3/pg 84)

### IT'S GREEK TO ME



προστίθημι

(pros-tith'-ay-mee)

added

to put to, add, put in place

χειρὶ μεσίτου

(Khay-ree) (mes-ee-too)

the hand of a mediator

Translated as:

intermediary, mediator

συνέκλεισεν

(soong-ehk-lay-sen)

imprisoned

from "soon" (together) and "kleio"(to shut)

# Lesson Four Day Three

How was the law given? Also note: What detail do we get in Galatians that was not included when this event - the giving of the Law - originally took place? Read [Exodus 20:18-22 and Deuteronomy 5:5, 22-27](#) for the background story. **Dwell Deeper:** Read also Deut. 6:4, 33:2; Acts 7:38 for more!

Who was the "[intermediary](#)" (ESV, NET) "mediator" (NIV, NASB) for putting the law in place? \_\_\_\_\_

**3. An Essential Truth.** (3:20) Paul describes why and how the law was given through Moses as the intermediary (3:19), and then he adds a clarifying comment about the nature of God. Write that truth:

Why do you think it was important for Paul to make sure there was no confusion about God - especially at this moment in his argument?

**4. Law vs Promises?** (3:21) Another question asked and answered...Write Paul's question and his short answer. Then explain the truth you learn about the Law from his answer.

In another letter, Paul talks more about this. The Galatians didn't have access to this letter, but you do! Note what you learn from [Romans 3:9-20, 7:10-13 and 8:1-6](#) about the law, righteousness, and life:

**5. Imprisoned to Empowered.** (3:22) In your Bible, highlight and draw a line to connect "*the Scripture*" (3:22) to "*the law*" (3:21.) What was the effect of Scripture? On who/what? For how long? What happened to change this imprisonment? Write or illustrate your answer:





**6. Free and Filled.** Paul wrote that the Law imprisoned everything until Christ. What does that mean for you today?



# Lesson Four Day Four

## Memorize & Meditate

But when \_\_\_\_\_ had come, G\_\_\_\_\_ Son, \_\_\_\_\_ of woman, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, to redeem those who \_\_\_\_\_ law, so that we \_\_\_\_\_ adoption as \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1.  Pray...for your family.
- 2.  Memorize/Meditate Gal. 4:4-5
- 3.  Simply Read [Galatians 3:23-29](#)
- 4.  Write the Word Galatians 3:23-29

**NOTE:** Preferred translations for today's reading: ESV, NASB '95/'77, CSB, NET, NKJV

### Thinking Back...

- The Really Good News.** Some might understand that the first four books of the New Testament are called "Gospels." Many might even know that "Gospel" means "good message" But, at this point in our study, maybe you have a better understanding of what is so good about the message written in The Gospels and why Paul was so passionate to get the Galatians back on track! If all you had was a general idea of the Gospels and Paul's words in Galatians 1:1-3:22, how would you explain what the Gospel is and why it's so good?



### Dwelling in the Word...

- That was then...** (3:23-24a) Create a list or draw pictures noting what it was like "before faith came." Refer also to passages from earlier in Galatians to make your list as complete as possible. Compare several translations for synonyms that for what it was like before and could have remained.



- Turning Point...**(3:24b) What is the key phrase that separates what it was then from what it is now?

\_\_\_\_\_

Look back at the timeline in [Lesson Three, pg 84](#). Add "Law/Guardian" to the space leading up to Christ.

### IT'S GREEK TO ME



ἔφρουρούμεθα

(eh-phroo-roo-meh-thah)

"we were held in custody"

Translated as: held captive, custody

παιδαγωγός

(pay-da-goh-gos)

Literally: trainer

Translated: guardian, trainer, schoolmaster, tutor

συνέκλεισεν

(soong-ehk-lay-sen)

imprisoned

from "soon" (together) and "kleio"(to shut)

ἐνεδύσαθε

(en-ed-ee-sas-thay)

"put on"

from "soon" (together) and "kleio"(to shut)

# Lesson Four Day Four

4. **Tutor Time.** (3:24-25) What idea does Paul use to help us understand the role of the law?

How is picturing the law as an actual guardian (tutor, trainer, schoolmaster) helpful in understanding its temporary role?

5. **Sola Fide.** (3:24b) What is the simply-put truth of what Christ finalized for believers when He came?

"that we might be... \_\_\_\_\_." The biblical truth of being justified only by faith is "sola fide" - a Latin phrase meaning "faith alone." What is the problem in adding works - charity, obedience, love, *anything!* - to faith for justification? What problem was Paul already seeing in the church? Consider Gal. 2:16 and 3:11.

6. **This is now...**(3:25-29) Paul points to the realities of life justified only by faith in Christ What a difference the cross makes! Create a list or draw pictures noting what is true "now that faith has come." Refer also to passages from earlier in Galatians to make your list as complete as possible. Compare several translations for synonyms that for what it was like before and could have remained. (\*Preferred Translations: ESV, NET, NKJV, NASB '95)



**DWELL DEEPER...** *Wait a minute! I thought Noah, Abraham, David, and other believers in God were considered righteous based on their faith, and they all lived long before the Cross and Christ! How could they have been justified if they lived before Jesus? Good question! Consider [Romans 3:21-31](#) and [Hebrews 9:11-17](#)*

7. **Clothed in Christ!** (3:27-29) Must Greeks become Jews to become righteous? Do women become men? Slaves leave masters? Who gets a new identity? Is this a new idea? Consider [Genesis 3:21](#) and [Isaiah 61:10](#).








8. **Free and Filled.** Depending on your life before Christ you might find it hard to imagine that you were being "held captive under" or "imprisoned" to the law. How did today's study help you appreciate the reality of the Gospel and why "that was then...this is now" is truly good news?

# Lesson Four Day Five

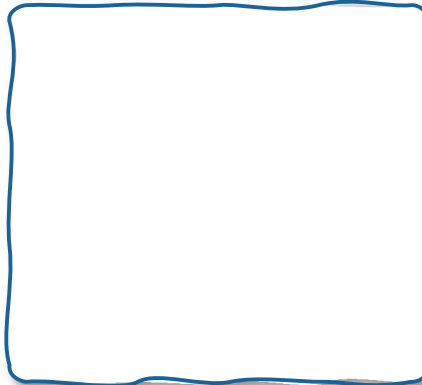
## Memorize & Meditate

(see Question #6)


- 1.  Pray...for your neighbors.
- 2.  Memorize/Meditate Gal. 4:4-5  
(see Question #6)
- 3.  Simply Read Galatians 4:1-7
- 4.  Write the Word Galatians 4:1-7
- 5.  Worship: \_\_\_\_\_

### Thinking Back...

- 1.  **All in the Family.** What truth does Paul emphasize in Galatians 3:29? Paraphrase AND illustrate the concept with a simple family tree.



### Dwelling in the Word...

- 2.  **Worship.** What song comes to mind as you think through today's passage? Write the name in the space above.
- 3. **Life as an Heir.** (4:1-3) Write OR illustrate Paul's point in this passage focusing on what life is like for a child-heir versus life for a slave living in that same home. Be sure to note who the child-heir is "under" and for how long.
- 4. **Same Home. Different Future.** (4:1-3) What does the future hold for the child-heir (κληρονόμος) in an ancient Roman home? What about a child who remains slave (δοῦλος) in that home?
- 5. **Spy Kids?.** (4:3 also 2:4) What were "we" like before coming to Christ? Review Galatians 2:4 with Paul's description here in mind. What were the "false brothers" doing and trying to do?

### IT'S GREEK TO ME

κληρονόμος

(kler-o-no-mos)  
"heir"

**Literally:** assigned portion  
**Spiritually:** the privilege of being justified by faith: counted as heirs not slaves

δοῦλος

(doo-los)

slave, bond-servant

**Literally:** someone who belongs to another, no ownership rights  
**Spiritually:** believers who willingly live under Christ's authority

Ἄββᾶ

(ah-bah)  
"daddy"

**Literally:** a child's call to their father  
**Spiritually:** the tender way we can address our Heavenly Father

# Lesson Four Day Five



**6. The Perfect Time.** Write Galatians 4:4-5 phrase by phrase. Note what the Scripture says then use the cross-references to help you understand what it means – include how it feels to you personally to know this meaning.

| What it says... | Cross-References   | What it means... |
|-----------------|--|------------------|
| :4a             | <a href="#">Luke 2:29-31</a><br><a href="#">Galatians 3:14-16</a><br><a href="#">Romans 5:6</a>  |                  |
| :4b             | <a href="#">John 1:1-2, 14; 3:6-17</a>   |                  |
| :4c             | <a href="#">Genesis 3:15,</a><br><a href="#">Matthew 1:21-23,</a><br><a href="#">Romans 1:3,</a> |                  |
| :4d             | <a href="#">Luke 2:27, Phil. 2:8,</a><br><a href="#">Hebrews 5:8</a>                             |                  |
| :5a             | <a href="#">Galatians 3:13,</a><br><a href="#">Romans 3:24, 2 Cor. 5:21</a>                      |                  |
| :5b             | <a href="#">Galatians 3:26,</a><br><a href="#">Romans 8:14-15</a>                                |                  |





**7. The Perfect Gift.** (4:5-7 also, Ephesians 2:8-9) How does Paul's word choice help you relate to what God has accomplished and given us? How would trying to achieve any of this by works ruin this incredible gift?

**8. Free and Filled.** The perfect song...What song did you think of (#2)? Why did you pick that song? How do the words of that song compare with Scripture? How is it faithful to the Word?



# Lesson Four Day Six

## Memorize & Meditate

- 1.  Pray...for your church leaders
- 2.  Memorize/Meditate Gal. 4:4-5  
write with your non-dominant hand
- 3.  Simply Read Galatians 4:8-11
- 4.  Write the Word Galatians 4:8-11

### Thinking Back...

1. **Slaves to Sons.** (4:1-7) How has Paul described the transition from slavery to sonship? Especially think about the role of God the Father, Son, and Spirit:



### Dwelling in the Word...

2. **Problematic Past.** (4:8) Paul, once again reminds the Galatians of the reality of their past. In later epistles he also describes this life. Read and describe this enslaved life: [Romans 1:18-23](#); [1 Corinthians 1:21](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:5](#)



Do you think most people who do not know God would describe themselves this way? Would you have described yourself this way before you came to God? Why or why not?

Paul opened this epistle admitting what about his own past?

In another letter, Paul describes his past and includes more details about how he felt about it. Read [Philippians 3:4-8](#). What is Paul's opinion of his past and how does he compare that to his present and future?

### IT'S GREEK TO ME



ἀσθενή

(ahs-then-ay)

"weak"

**Literally:** without/strength

**Spiritually:** lacking vigor, insufficient, frail, sickly

πτωχά

(pt-oh-cha)

"worthless"

**Literally:** bent over, destitute, lacking earthly wealth, poor (2:10)

**Spiritually:** impotent especially in light of God's strength

στοιχείον

(stoy-khi-on)

"elementary principles"

**Literally:** a row, line, or rank, letters lined up

**Connected:** elements of the earth and stars

# Lesson Four Day Six

3. **Known by God.** (4:9a) How does Paul echo Jesus' words in [John 10:14](#)? Why do you think it was important for Paul to clarify that they were known by God? Consider also [1 Corinthians 8:3](#) and [1 John 4:19](#)

4. **Weak & Worthless.** (4:9b) How does Paul describe what they are turning back to? Why does Paul sound the alarm about this? [Romans 8:3](#) and [Hebrews 7:18](#) will give you more understanding.

Is Paul saying that these "elementary principles" ([στοιχεῖον](#)) are by nature bad? Explain, and support with Scripture. Keep in mind what he's just said in 3:19, 21, 25 and 4:2.

5. **Futile Followings.** (4:10) Paul names the "weak and worthless elementary principles" that has him so concerned...angry, actually. What specifically are the Galatians doing? Paul doesn't get too specific, but, what do you think would have been an example of a day, month, season, or year they may have been observing?

Why was this a problem? Is it inherently wrong or bad to observe days, months, seasons, or years? HINT: The answer is found in the context of this passage (4:8-9) and, of course, in the larger context of Paul's epistle.





6. **Sons to Slaves?** (4:11) What is Paul's sincere fear for the Galatians? What is his fear rooted in? What does his statement tell you about Paul as a person?

7. **Free and Filled.** Do you have Paul's passionate longing for those missing the point of the gospel? Why or why not? Are you at risk of "turning back" to the "weak and worthless" principles of this world? Why or why not? (Respond to one or both.)



# Lesson Four Day Seven

## Memorize & Meditate

- 1.  Pray...for humility.
- 2.  Memorize/Meditate Gal.4:4-5  
write in **RED**
- 3.  Simply Read Galatians 4:12-20
- 4.  Write the Word Galatians 4:12-20  
**Reminder:** Direct quotes are from the ESV translation


### Thinking Back...

1. **Brothers:** Skim back through Galatians 1:1-3:15. Highlight in your Bible and note here how Paul addresses them. How does his word choice communicate Paul's tone and message:

1:11 - \_\_\_\_\_

3:1 - \_\_\_\_\_

3:15 - \_\_\_\_\_

 2. **Knowing and Being Known.** Imagine someone tells a deliberate lie, mischaracterizes, or distorts something about one of your closest friends. How would you know something was off? What specific signs would you notice, and how would you respond?

3. **Nurtured or Misled?** Who influenced the Galatians both positively and negatively? Skim Galatians 1:1-2:14 and note who would have had influence over their understanding. Mark each to indicate if you think their influence was good or bad or maybe both.

### Dwelling in the Word...

4. **Movement through Ministry.** (4:12-20) Illustrate the emotional and spiritual journey Paul describes in this passage. Notice his many "I" statements. Here's an idea of how to move through this passage:  
→ v.12-14 Their reception of Paul → v.15-16 Truth & Tension → v.17-18 Current Status → v.19-20 Paul's hope  
Design a flow-chart, diagram, or drawings...whatever works best for you...

### IT'S GREEK TO ME



ἀδελφοί

(a-del-phoy)

"brothers" or

"brothers & sisters"

**Literally:** "from the same womb"

**Spiritually:** we are all "brothers" in Christ

μορφωθῆ

(mor-fo-thay)

"is formed"

**Literally:** form embodying inner essence

**Spiritually:** beyond imitation - Christ's life and nature transforming us from within -  
→ Sanctification

# Lesson Four Day Seven



## Free & Filled

*Study Buddy Day! Connect and encourage one another. Share your responses.*

5. **Become Like Me.** (4:12) In what way did Paul want them to become like him? How does this challenge or encourage you today as you read his letter?
  
6. **Where'd it Go?** (4:15-16) Answer Paul's rhetorical questions as if you were a Galatian. Read the verses from a paraphrase for clarity. Would you feel convicted reading this? In what ways are you willing or resistant to hear hard truths today?
  
7. **Much ado about nothing.** (4:17-18) Who are the "they" Paul is referring to? What is his point in saying that they make "much of you...for no good purpose"? (ESV) What about you? Are you susceptible to getting caught up in approval or flattery? Why or why not?
  
8. **Tone is Tough.** (4:19-20) How is Paul's dilemma and desire similar to how you might feel if you were trying to correct a problem from a distance? What can you learn and maybe even be inspired by as you read Paul's words and imagine his tone in these verses?



# Lesson Four Day Eight

Paul has sharply rebuked the Galatians for not actually listening to the law they are so bent on being under. So, now he schools them in the Scriptures, introducing his tutoring session by the authority of Scripture when he says, "it is written..." The original account is recorded in Genesis 15-21 and is more entertaining than the most dramatic, chair-tossing, "who's your daddy?" episode of *Jerry Springer*. (I highly recommend you read this page-turner if you are not familiar with the background.) Paul summarizes about 15 years of history in two sentences, Galatians 4:22-23 and then, expands even further in a brilliant sermon taking God's Word and helping the Galatians understand it in light of life in Christ.




4. **Torah 101.** Imagine you are in Paul's Torah 101 class. Take notes on his teaching - the review and application of the account of Abraham. Illustrate the two distinct branches of Abraham's family that Paul discusses: one toward slavery under the law (Hagar), and the other toward freedom through the promise (Sarah). You can use arrows or lines to show how Abraham's two sons represent two covenants—one that leads to legalism and the other that leads to grace and freedom. Here is a list of people, places, and ideas you'll want to include in your notes - in case Professor Paul gives a pop quiz! **Abraham, Hagar (slave woman), Sarah (free woman), Ishmael (son of Hagar), Isaac (son of Sarah), flesh, promise, covenants, Mt. Sinai, present Jerusalem, Jerusalem above, slavery, freedom.** (We'll continue our class notes with Professor Paul adding more details in Day Nine.)

5. **Two Covenants.** (4:24) It's important to understand the two covenants that Paul is explaining in his allegory. Check your notes above and make sure you have labeled both.
6. **Free and Filled.** Are there areas in your life where you are tempted to **rely on works** to feel right with God, or to **get ahead of God's promise** by taking things into your own hands like Abraham and Sarah did? How can you free to walk by faith filled because you are filled with His Spirit?



# Lesson Four Day Nine

## Memorize & Meditate

- 1.  **Pray...** for empathy and insight
- 2.  **Memorize/Meditate** Gal. 4:4-5  
write then highlight key words
- 3.  **Simply Read** Galatians 4:28-31
- 4.  **Write the Word** Galatians 4:28-31

### Thinking Back...

1. **The Big Picture Plan.** Read [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#); [Romans 7:4-6, 9:8](#). What was God's ultimate plan for the law? What does that plan look like in your life as a Christian today?



2. **Amazing Birth. Amazing Grace.** Compare the accounts of Isaac and Ishmael.



|                                   | <u>Ishmael</u><br>Gen. 17:15-17, 21:1-7 | <u>Isaac</u><br>Gen. 16:1-16 |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Whose Plan?                       |   |                              |
| Circumstances?                    |   |                              |
| Immediate Outcome?                |   |                              |
| Long-term Outcome?<br>Gal. 3:7-29 |   |                              |

What does Isaac's birth teach you about the nature of God? How should this understanding impact the way you relate to God in your life today?



3. **Two Jerusalems?** (4:25-26) Paul talks about Jerusalem allegorically and, it turns out, literally. Read Hebrews 12:22 and Revelation 3:12 for more understanding. Which Jerusalem is the one we can look forward to? Why?



# Lesson Four Day Nine

## Dwelling in the Word...

4. **Children of Promise.** (4:28) Which family line do the Galatian believers belong to? If *they* are part of that line, does it apply to you as well? Why or why not? (Consider: [Romans 9:7-8](#), [Gal. 3:29](#), [Eph. 2:8-9](#).)


5. **Flesh vs Spirit.** (4:29 and Gen. 21:9) How does Ishmael's persecution of Isaac foreshadow the battle between the flesh and the Spirit? What impact does this have on your daily life? Consider: Matthew 26:41; John 3:6; Eph 2:1, Col. 2:13, Romans 8, Gal 3:3

6. **Slaves vs Sons.** (4:30-31) Jesus Himself taught this truth and how understanding and living this truly sets us free. Read John 8:31-38 and share how Jesus' interactions with the Jews who had believed Him helps clarify Paul's reminder to us in Galatians.

7. **Free and Filled.** Are there areas where you feel like you're living more like a "slave" than a "son" of God? Maybe ways that thoughts, habits, or pressures make it hard to fully embrace your freedom in Christ? How can abiding in God's Word help you live each day as a free and loved child of God?

# Lesson Four Day Ten

## Memorize & Meditate

□ 1.  Pray...for your Grace Group

□ 2.  Memorize/Meditate Gal. 4:4-5  
write from memory

### ...Create and Share...



#### "Child of Promise"...what a concept!

What a relief! What a truth that should radically change my life!  
What a shame then to live as if I were a child of slavery.

And yet, we can. We do.

Robert Robinson wrote it this way,

"Prone to wander, Lord I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love."

from the hymn, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Paul was worried, stressed, perplexed about the Galatians. Why? Because they had done exactly that: wandered away. He said essentially: "What has become of your blessedness? How can you turn back to the weak and worthless...and become slaves again?"

Paul fills his writing with words of admonition and words that are anchored in the truth with lots of images to help us picture the way of slavery and the way of freedom.

What image stands out to you from the passage you've just finished studying?

The Ten Commandments?

Slave or Free? Jew or Greek? Male or Female?

A tutor, guardian, or manager?

A child crying "Abba!"?

An heir? A mountain like Sinai?

Present Jerusalem? Jerusalem above?



Think of an image that for you will stand as a reminder to never forget the truth of who you are in Christ, "not children of the slave but of the free woman." You are in Christ a child of promise.

This might be an object in your home, an image represented in the passage you've just studied, or something you create.

On the back of this page, write about or draw the image that helps you keep this truth in mind. If you have an actual item, bring that (or a photo of it) to Grace Groups next time we meet.

As always, we love to create...and share! If you share on your Facebook or Instagram page, be sure to tag a friend and use #DwellingRichly with your post.

# Create & Share

---