

GALATIANS 5

Chi Alpha Lifegroup Guide Galatians

LESSON PREP

Tell everyone to bring a journal or pen and paper tonight. There will be a time of reflection (see under Galatians 5:19-26).

PRE LG TEXT MESSAGE QUESTIONS

So we have this freedom, but what do we do with it? Find out tonight at lifegroup. Also, bring a journal or some paper! We will have a time of reflection.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Galatians 5:13

10N1 FOLLOW UP

What are some ways you have been gratifying your flesh? Where are you at with wanting to submit it under the Lordship of Christ?

INTRODUCTION

- What do you typically think about when your mind wanders?
- What do you dream about?

Galatians 5:1-12

- How can we help each other as a group to stand firm?
- Do you find Paul's tone in this section inappropriate or too harsh? Why, why not? -Why is he justified in speaking like this?

Galatians 5:13-18

The gospel gives us freedom, but it does not give us freedom to do whatever we want. There are two sides that we can swing to. There is the side of legalism which is much of what the churches in Galatia were struggling with, but on the other hand we can fall into licentiousness, an attitude that says we can do whatever we want because we are under grace. Here is where Paul warns them to not do that either. It has taken Paul 5 and a half chapters to explain to the Galatian churches that they are free. That they cannot earn righteousness and that their faith in the grace of Christ on the cross has credited righteousness to them. So now the question is, what do they do with this freedom? Paul answers this question in these verses.

- What are you indulging in during your free time? How is it affecting you? Your relationship with Christ? How does this affect others around you?
Philippians 2:3&4 say "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others". V7 of Phil 2 says that "Christ emptied himself" (ESV) as Christians, this is the example to follow, the call to empty ourselves. This is the call Paul is challenging the churches of Galatia with – "do not use freedom to indulge in the flesh, rather serve humbly in love"; empty yourself, look to the interests of others.
- Is it easier for you to serve or to be served? Why? How can you humbly do both?
- **Think through your day.** How often do you focus on meeting your needs? How often do you focus on serving someone else to meet their needs? What are ways you can better serve others humbly throughout your day?
- What does it look like to walk by the Spirit in your day to day life?

Galatians 5:19-26

***Pause at vs19-20. Take a few minutes of silence to allow the Spirit to evaluate your heart with the word. Is there lust, jealousy, hatred, selfish ambition, anything else? (Depending on the group, they can evaluate in silence and continue later in their quiet time with the Lord. If you, as the leader, think that this could be a good time for confession, allow the Spirit to move. James 5:16 says "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other that you may be healed". If confession happens, prayer should follow and allow the Spirit to lead the group to healing. His kindness draws us to repentance.)*

**Now the contrast, the Spirit, the fruits of the Spirit, allow your group to take another pause and meditate on these. These are what Christ, meditating on his word and his work for us on the cross produces in our hearts.*

- Are you allowing Christ's work to produce in you the fruit of the Spirit?
- How do you see the fruits of the Spirit growing in your life?
- How do you allow the gospel to shape your relationship with others?

APPLICATION

Practice intentionality this week. That might sound weird to say but sometimes it doesn't come naturally. Practice intentionally valuing the interests of others in your day to day.

