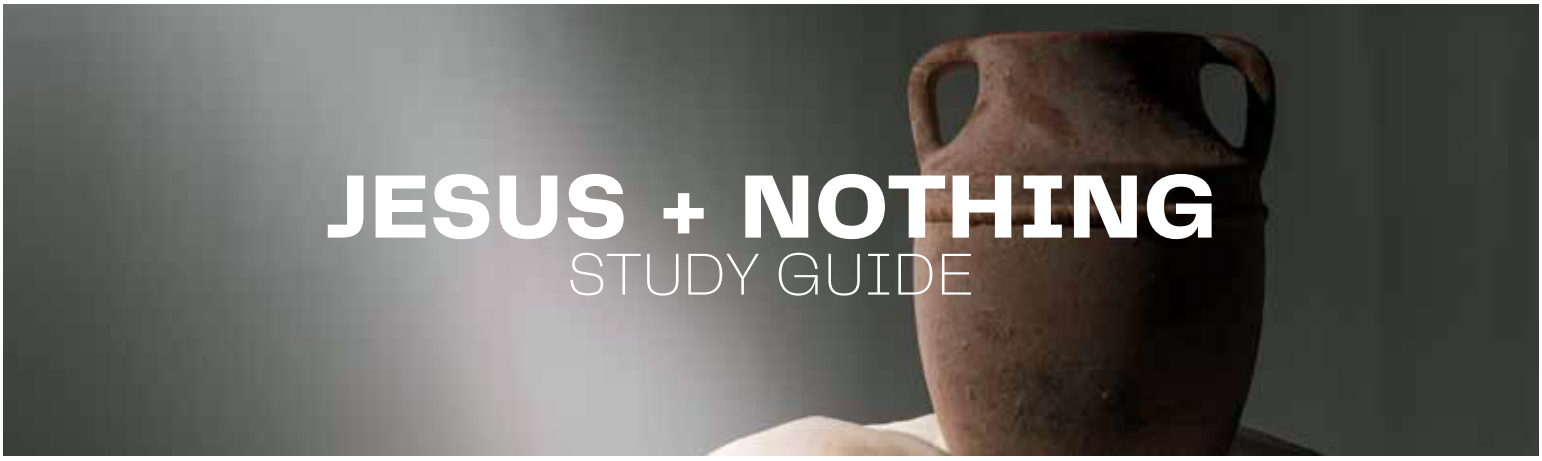


HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE?

For each sermon, we want to provide questions you can use in small groups, family discussions, or as you are hanging out with your friends. Here are some steps for getting the most out of each series :

- Spend time prayerfully reading over the Main Scripture, Message Overview, Big Idea, and Supporting Scriptures for the week.
- Use the Opening Question from the discussion guide as more of an ice breaker to get the group discussion going.
- Utilize the framework of the other questions to facilitate engagement with the scripture and group discussion with a clear direction towards an action step for each person.
- Respond in prayer together to encourage and challenge your people to act upon what they've learned in their study of the scripture.



JESUS + NOTHING : PART 1
STUDY GUIDE

Week 1 – July 5, 2026 – Glory to God
Main Scripture – Galatians 1:1–5

Message Overview: Paul begins with the end in mind. In this prologue-style greeting, he offers grace and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ to the Church at Galatia and then goes on to explain how God's grace and peace are manifested through Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice in their place. Paul ends the greeting by declaring that this merciful act of God always ends with Him receiving glory. This sermon will kick this series off by outlining that God's salvation, offered to humanity through Jesus, is singularly focused on God's glory.

Big Idea: Salvation brings sinners grace and God glory.

Supporting Scriptures: Matthew 20:28; Romans 4:20–25; 1 Corinthians 15:1–4

Talk through these questions with your life group, family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion Questions:

Opening Question: Has there ever been a time when you had to defend yourself or someone else? What was the circumstance and what was that like?

Read the main scripture: Galatians 1:1-5

1. Who sent Paul? How does Paul emphasize his authority in verse 1? Why was it critical for him to state that he was sent "not from men nor by a man"?

2. Why would Paul's opponents in Galatia have challenged his calling, and how does this verse establish the source of his message?

3. In what ways does Paul connect Jesus' resurrection to his own calling as an apostle?

4. Paul uses the standard greeting "grace and peace". Why are both of these terms so crucial to the Christian faith, and why does Paul always place "grace" before "peace"?

5. How does Paul define the Gospel in verses 3 and 4? What are the essential components of the "good news" as outlined here?

6. What does the phrase "present evil age" imply about the state of the world we live in, and how did Jesus rescue us from it?

7. Based on verse 5, what is the ultimate purpose of Jesus' sacrificial work, and how does this affect our attitude toward God?

8. When you are asked what the Gospel is, how do you explain it? Does your explanation align with the core points in Galatians 1:4?

9. How can you actively share with others the grace and peace of God this week?

Respond in Prayer

Share prayer requests together and spend time thanking God for His grace in our lives for salvation.



Week 2: July 12, 2026 – No Other Gospel

Main Scripture – Galatians 1:6–10

Message Overview: Intensity is not a problem for the Apostle Paul. And, immediately after greeting the Galatians with the reminder of God's grace and peace extended to them through the Person and Work of Jesus, his tone changes to bewilderment, astonishment, disappointment, and, frankly, anger.

This is because the Galatians abandoned the explicit Gospel of Grace in and through Christ Jesus alone to embrace a different "gospel" that was partly dependent upon Christ, while also relying upon human achievement/merit to fill in the gaps, as if Jesus' work was somehow insufficient. This was the result of false teaching from false teachers. But Paul makes clear that Jesus' Gospel is the only Gospel there is, no matter who (another man or even an angel from heaven) tries to declare something different.

This sermon will match Paul's intensity in proclaiming that there is only one Gospel that is sufficient for salvation and all other "forms" are cheap, demonic counterfeits to be discarded with the same fervency and intensity with which Paul speaks.

Big Idea: There is only one Gospel, approved by God, for the salvation of humanity.

Supporting Scriptures: John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Corinthians 3:11; 2 Corinthians 11:13–15

Talk through these questions with your life group, family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion Questions:

Opening Question: Share a time when you believed something was true only to later realize it was misleading or incomplete. What made it believable at first?

Read the main scripture: Galatians 1:6-10

1. Paul has a strong reaction to the Galatians turning toward a "different gospel." What does his reaction teach us about how seriously believers should guard the truth of the Gospel?

2. Paul says the Galatians were "deserting" the true Gospel by adding human effort to faith in Christ. Why do you think people are often tempted to add rules, performance, or personal achievement to the message of grace?

3. In John 14:6, Jesus says He is "the way, the truth, and the life." How does this scripture challenge the idea that salvation can come through multiple paths or that all religions lead to God?

4. Acts 4:12 says salvation is found in no one else but Jesus. Why is it important to understand that salvation is based completely on Christ's work and no one or nothing else?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 3:11. Paul says no foundation can be laid other than Jesus Christ. What are some "other foundations" people are tempted to build their identity or salvation on today?

6. In 2 Corinthians 11:13–15, Paul warns that false teachers can disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. What are some ways believers can discern whether a teaching aligns with the Gospel?

7. What is one practical way you can stay rooted in the true Gospel of grace this week and guard your heart against distorted or performance-based Christianity?

Respond in Prayer

Take a moment to reflect on the truth that there is only one Gospel and one Savior, Jesus Christ. As a group, thank God for the gift of salvation that is based on grace alone and not human effort. Ask Him to reveal any areas in your life where you may be tempted to rely on works. Pray for discernment to recognize false teaching and for courage to stand firm in the truth of the Gospel, even when it is unpopular. Ask God to deepen your confidence in the finished work of Christ and to help you live with gratitude and boldness because of it.



Week 3: July 19, 2026 – Transformative Power

Main Scripture – Galatians 1:11–24

Message Overview: Paul proves that there is no other Gospel by which men must be saved by pointing to the transformative difference that Jesus made in his life. Previously a religious terrorist, devoted to his ability to keep the law (while persecuting those who didn't) in order to earn right standing before God, Paul details his very own journey with Jesus and the reality that new life (freedom) is only found through surrender and submission to Him.

This transformation resulted in God's glory, as the people once terrified of Paul now praised God because of the redemption Paul received through faith in Christ Jesus. This sermon will not only focus on the fact that no one is ever too far gone to be out of God's saving grasp, but also on the fact that all a person needs to share the Gospel is a personal testimony of the transformative different Jesus has made in their life.

Big Idea: There is more grace in Jesus than there is sin in you.

Supporting Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 2:9–11; Philippians 3:7–11; Isaiah 49:1

Talk through these questions with your life group, family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion Questions:

Opening Question: Share an experience or relationship in your life that completely changed the direction of your thinking or behavior?

Read the main scripture: Galatians 1:11-24

1. Paul emphasizes that the Gospel he preached was not man-made but revealed by Jesus Christ. Why is it important that the Gospel comes from God and not human opinion?

2. How does Paul's transformation from persecutor to preacher demonstrate the power of God's grace and salvation?

3. The churches that once feared Paul ended up glorifying God because of his changed life. What does this teach us about the purpose and impact of a personal testimony?

4. In 1 Corinthians 2:9–11, Paul explains that the deep things of God are revealed through the Spirit. What does this passage teach us about our ability to understand God with the Holy Spirit?

5. In Philippians 3:7–11. Paul counted his religious achievements and status as loss compared to knowing Christ. Why do you think Paul viewed knowing Jesus as more valuable than everything he had accomplished before? How do you value your accomplishments compared to knowing Jesus?

6. Read. Isaiah 49:1. Isaiah speaks about being called by God from the beginning. What does this passage reveal about God's intentional purpose for people's lives?

7. Paul's life became a testimony of God's transforming power. What is one way you can share the difference Jesus has made in your life with someone else this week?

Respond in Prayer

Thank God for the transforming power of the Gospel and for the difference Jesus has made in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you know Christ more deeply, trust God's purpose for your life, and value Him above all earthly accomplishments. Pray for courage to share your personal testimony this week so that others may see God's grace at work and glorify Him.



Week 4: July 26, 2026 – Preserve the Truth

Main Scripture – Galatians 2:1–5

Message Overview: From the earliest moments of Christianity, false teaching has threatened to compromise the unfiltered message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. False doctrine, false denominations, and false religions all exist because men and women have refused to preserve the one, true Gospel. In fact, you could summarize the majority of Paul's purpose in writing to the Galatians as his effort to battle false teaching in order to preserve the explicit Gospel.

This sermon will focus on the centuries-long battle, waged by faithful men and women, to preserve the Gospel for those who would come after, and, how those who have been transformed by this preserved Gospel now have the responsibility to continue the preservation battle so that generations to come will have the opportunity to see, hear, and respond to the unfiltered Good News.

Big Idea: The Gospel came to you on its way to someone else.

Supporting Scriptures: Galatians 1:10; 2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 1:10–14

Talk through these questions with your life group, family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion Questions:

Opening Question: Have you ever been pressured by peers or society to 'blend in' or conform, and how did you handle it? Who helped stay focused on what was important?

Read the main scripture: Galatians 2:1-5

1. Fourteen years after his conversion, Paul returned to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Titus (v. 1). Why did he make this trip, and why did he specifically take Titus—a Gentile—with him?

2. Paul states that he presented his gospel message to the Jerusalem leaders privately (v. 2). Why did he choose this approach instead of a public debate?

3. In verse 3, Paul makes a point that Titus was not compelled to be circumcised. What did circumcision represent in this context, and why was Paul so firm on this boundary?

4. According to verse 4, who had "infiltrated" the church, and what were they attempting to do? Why was it so dangerous to the true gospel?

5. In verse 4, Paul refers to them as "false believers". How can the modern church identify teachings or attitudes that subtly add works to the gospel of grace?

6. Paul explains that he refused to yield to these false teachers for even a moment so that "the truth of the gospel" might be preserved (v. 5). How does adding "requirements" to faith compromise the message of grace?

7. How does Paul's defense in these verses show the careful balance between seeking the unity of the church and defending the purity of the gospel?

8. Who has helped you preserve the gospel in your life and how did they do that? How can you help others do the same?

9. Paul stood firm so that the Galatians could keep their spiritual freedom. In what areas of your own faith journey do you need to claim the freedom of Christ rather than returning to earning God's approval?

Respond in Prayer

Share prayer requests together and spending time thanking God for the people that brought the Gospel of Christ into our lives.



Week 5: August 2, 2026 – Freedom for All

Main Scripture – Galatians 2:6–10

Message Overview: Although the Scriptures, from Genesis to Malachi, primarily focus on the Nation of Israel as the people that God chose to display His glory to the world, it was always God's plan to provide redemption for the entire world—every nation, every tribe, and every tongue.

Scripture passages such as Genesis 3:15, Genesis 12:3, and Revelation 7:9–10 provide insight to this fact. But now, in this portion of Paul's letter to the Galatians, we see clearly that salvation is indeed for all; both the Jew (circumcised) and the Gentile (uncircumcised). This sermon will emphasize God's heart for all people to be saved and Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension as the irrefutable evidence.

Big Idea: All means all.

Supporting Scriptures: John 3:16–17; Acts 10:34–35; Romans 2:11–16; 2 Peter 3:9

Talk through these questions with your life group, family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion Questions:

Opening Question: Has there ever been a time when you realized someone you initially judged was completely different than you assumed? What was the situation and what changed? **Read the main scripture: Galatians 2:6–10**

1. Paul notes that the prominent leaders "added nothing" to his message. Why is it crucial for Paul to emphasize that he did not receive his authority or his Gospel from human beings?

2. What does Paul mean when he says, "God does not show favoritism" (or "judges by external appearances")? How can modern churches be tempted to show partiality or judge by outward appearances today?

3. Paul and Peter were given different primary audiences (Gentiles vs. circumcised/Jews). How does this demonstrate that God can use different people with different giftings to accomplish the same unified mission?

4. James, Peter, and John recognized the grace given to Paul and gave him and Barnabas the "right hand of fellowship". What does it look like to extend the "right hand of fellowship" to other believers and ministries today, even if their style or demographic is different?

5. The Jerusalem leaders ask Paul to remember the poor, which Paul notes he was already "eager to do". Why does caring for the poor remain fundamentally tied to the true Gospel of grace?

6. In what practical ways is your group, or your local church, actively "eager" to remember and provide for the poor in the community?

7. How does the realization that God looks at the heart rather than human status free you from comparing yourself to others in your spiritual walk?

Respond in Prayer

Have different people read the supporting scriptures above and pray for family, friends, and all people around the world to know Jesus Christ as their Savior.



Week 6: August 9, 2026 – Freedom from Religion

Main Scripture – Galatians 2:11–21

Message Overview: Human hearts innately desire meritocracy—a system of value, acceptance, and approval based upon abilities and achievements. While this is a good thing in most every situation, it's an awful thing in terms of religion. And still, every religion on the planet operates with a meritocracy mindset. Some "good, requires performance worthy of "his pleasure in order to achieve redemption. Christianity, too, is a meritocracy, but not in the same way as every other religion.

Merit in Christianity is earned by God Himself on behalf of sinful human beings because sinful human beings could never meet His standard of perfect holiness and righteousness. Jesus' fulfillment of God's Law is the merit that God grants to those who, receive Christ by faith. This sermon will focus on salvation through Christ's merit, not humanity's.

Big Idea: The only thing we bring to salvation is the sin that makes it necessary.

Supporting Scriptures: Matthew 5:17–18; John 19:30; Romans 3:21–26

Talk through these questions with your life group, family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion Questions:

Opening Question: Can you share about a time when you realized your actions didn't match your deeply held values, and how you handled it when it was pointed out to you? **Read the main scripture: Galatians 2:11-21**

1. Why did Peter withdraw from eating with the Gentiles? How did fear compromise his true convictions and the gospel itself?

2. How did Peter's actions act as a "stumbling block" to others? Who else was led astray? What does this reveal about the power of influence within the church?

3. According to verse 16, what does Paul mean by "works of the law"? Why is it impossible for a person to be justified by these works? Read Genesis 15:6 about Abraham for more understanding of this context.

4. How would you explain the concept of justification by faith to someone who is not a Christian?

5. In what ways do modern Christians sometimes try to "earn" or add to their salvation (e.g., relying on good deeds, heritage, or specific cultural traditions instead of grace alone)?

6. In verse 19, Paul states, "For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God." What does it mean to "die to the law"?

7. Verse 20 contains a foundational memory verse: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." What does it practically look like to live a life "crucified with Christ"?

8. How does Paul close his argument in verse 21? What happens when we rely on our own righteousness rather than Christ's sacrifice?

Respond in Prayer

Spend time praying to God the acronym ACTS...

Adoration (Praise to God)/Confession (Silently confess sins and thank God for His forgiveness)/Thanksgiving (Give thanks for the answered prayers)/ Supplication (Requests)
