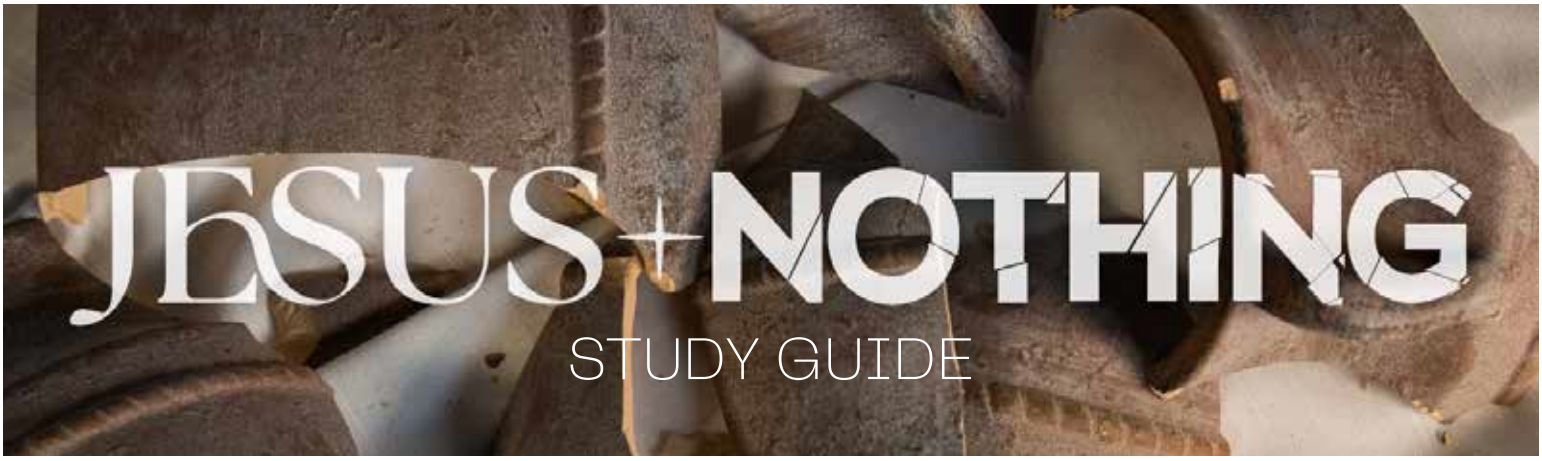


HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE?

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 2
STUDY GUIDE

Week 7: August 16, 2026 – Justified through Faith
Main Scripture – Galatians 3:1–9

Message Overview: From the beginning, faith in the catalyst by which God applies His redemption to mankind. This sermon will emphasize that point by following the text all the way back to Abraham, the Father of the Faith. We will go on a tour of Abraham's life (lived before the Law was given) to show that faith (action-oriented belief, Greek: pisteuo), not works, is what justifies men before holy God.

Big Idea: Faith justifies. Not works. Faith produces obedience. Works do not produce faith.

Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 12:1–9; 15:6; 22:1–19; Hebrews 11:8–12, 17–19

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: Think about a time you tried to earn someone's approval (a boss, a parent, or a coach) by strictly following a set of rules. How did it feel, and how does that compare to what you believe today? **Read the main scripture: Galatians 3:1-9**

1. How would you describe Paul's tone? Why do you think he feels this way?

2. What does Paul argue about their past spiritual experience?

3. Paul uses the word "bewitched." What does this suggest about the power of false teachings and how easily Christians can be deceived?

4. Paul asks four sharp, rhetorical questions to make them think about how they actually received the Holy Spirit. What are they? What is the core difference between "works of the law" and "the hearing of faith"?

5. Why is it foolish to try and perfect through the "flesh" (human effort) what God started through the Holy Spirit?

6. How does Paul use the Old Testament to prove his point?

7. Paul quotes Genesis 15:6 about Abraham's faith being "credited to him as righteousness." Why is this a foundational Old Testament proof against the idea of earning salvation through works?

8. Who does Paul say are the true "children of Abraham"? Why was this a radical statement to those who relied on their Jewish heritage?

9. How did God "preach the gospel" to Abraham in advance? What does this reveal about God's plan for the Gentiles (non-Jews) from the very beginning? Think Jesus.

10. What is the blessing of Abraham, and how do people receive it today?

11. How are you tempted in your daily Christian life to rely on your own “performance” rather than simply trusting in God’s grace and promises?

12. According to this passage, how should the Gospel shape the way you experience the Holy Spirit?

Respond in Prayer

Share prayer requests and pray for everyone to grow even deeper in their faith in Jesus.



Week 8: August 23, 2026 – Law and Promise

Main Scripture – Galatians 3:10–18

Message Overview: The salvation of all mankind through one man, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the overarching theme of the entire Bible. This is first proclaimed by God, to Satan, in Genesis 3:15 and reaffirmed by God, to Abraham, in the form of a Promise, in Genesis 12:3 and 15:5.

This section of Paul's letter to the Church at Galatia clarifies that the Law of God does not nullify the promise of God. It emphasizes the purpose of the Law being set in place as evidence that mankind could not meet God's requirements for perfection but also establishes that the curse the Law brings (death) was reversed by Jesus, the One to which the Promise of God always pointed, through His life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

Big Idea: In Jesus, God's promises to the world are fulfilled.

Supporting Scriptures: Romans 4:1–25; 2 Corinthians 1:18–20

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: What's one area of your life where you naturally revert to a 'checklist mentality'—where you measure your progress by what you've completed, rather than by a relationship or by trust?

Read the main scripture: Galatians 3:10-18

1. In verse 10, Paul quotes Deuteronomy 27:26. Why are those who rely on the works of the law described as being "under a curse"?

2. According to verse 11 (quoting Habakkuk 2:4), what is the only way a person is justified (made right) before God? How does Paul contrast "faith" and "works" in this passage?

3. In verse 13, Paul makes a startling statement: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us." How did Christ physically and spiritually fulfill Deuteronomy 21:23?

4. What was the purpose of Christ becoming a curse, according to verse 13?

5. What is the significance of the "blessing of Abraham" reaching the Gentiles in verse 14?

6. How does Paul use human contracts or covenants (v. 15) to illustrate the permanence of God's promises to Abraham?

7. Verse 16 highlights that the promise was made to Abraham and his "seed" (singular). Why is this linguistic detail critical for proving the promise was ultimately about Christ?

8. The law demands perfection, while the promise relies entirely on trusting God. Have you ever caught yourself trying to "earn" God's favor or love through your own rule-keeping rather than resting in His grace?

9. The law was given to Moses 430 years after God made His covenant with Abraham. What is Paul's argument about the law "nullifying" or replacing the original promise (vv. 15–18)?

10. The inheritance is based on a promise, not the law. How does the realization that your eternal salvation is a free inheritance (a gift) rather than an earned wage change how you view your daily obedience and relationship with God?

Respond in Prayer

Spend time thinking through promises of God in the Bible that each one can see being fulfilled in their lives. Thank God for His promises.

Week 9: August 30, 2026 – The Purpose of the Law

Main Scripture – Galatians 3:19–26

Message Overview: The Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul, continues to expound upon the previous theological reality represented by the difference between the Law and the Promise. Paul asserts that the Law and the Promise are not contradictory as if God made the Promise to Abraham but then changed His mind when He gave the Law to Moses. Instead, the Law was a "temporary, protective disciplinarian that exposed human sinfulness and guided people toward the need for faith in Christ Jesus."

This sermon will again point to the Law as the definitive proof that human righteousness is an impossibility, therefore emphasizing the necessity of the grace of God offered to humanity through the righteousness of Christ.

Big Idea: Salvation is hitched to the Old Testament, not through our works, but by God's grace through Jesus.

Supporting Scriptures: John 1:12; Romans 8:14–17; 9:6–8; Ephesians 3:6

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: What is one 'rule' from your childhood that you absolutely hated at the time, but now look back on and appreciate?

Read the main scripture: Galatians 3:19-26

1. Paul asks, "What then was the purpose of the law?" How does he answer this in verse 19?

2. In what ways does the Law act like a mirror? How does it reveal our need for a Savior?

3. How does Paul contrast the nature of the Law with the nature of God's promise in verses 20-21? Why can the Law never give us spiritual life or righteousness?

4. Verse 22 says that Scripture has "imprisoned everyone under sin." What does this mean for our human tendency to try to earn God's favor through our own good works?

5. How does Paul describe the era before faith in Christ came in verse 23?

6. In verse 24, Paul uses the analogy of a "schoolmaster" or "guardian" (paidagogos in Greek). What was the primary role of this type of guardian in the ancient world? How does this illustrate the function of the Law?

7. At what specific point does the role of this "guardian" come to an end?

8. In what ways might a Christian today still be tempted to live under the rule of the "guardian" rather than enjoying the freedom of faith?

9. According to verse 26, how do we become children of God? What does this imply about the status of people who try to rely on the Law for their salvation?

10. If someone asked you to explain the difference between a "slave to the law" and a "child of God," how would you summarize it using these verses?

11. How do these verses change your perspective on Old Testament commands and the Law?

12. What is one specific area of your life where you rely on self-effort (law-keeping) instead of trusting in the promise of God?

Respond in Prayer

Spend time thanking God through sharing words of affirmation to God. You can start by saying, “God, you are...” and let people sharing their praise to God in prayer.



Week 10: September 6, 2026 – Sons and Heirs

Main Scripture – Galatians 3:27–4:7

Message Overview: The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most breathtaking news ever delivered. Through Jesus, sinful humanity is justified, God no longer counting sin against the guilty but now declaring the guilty to be righteous, because the Righteous One became guilty in their place.

It would literally take eternity to fully wrap our minds around that reality. But the Gospel doesn't end there. The once unrighteous, guilty, enemies of God are turned into God's adopted heirs through Christ Jesus—His very own sons and daughters. This isn't "replacement theology", it's "fulfillment theology"—God fulfilling the Promise to Abraham through a family of faith, not of ethnicity.

Big Idea: God's family is one based upon faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and nothing else.

Supporting Scriptures: Romans 8:16–17; 1 Timothy 2:5–6; 1 Peter 2:9–10

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: What is one 'rule' from your childhood that you absolutely hated at the time, but now look back on and appreciate?

Read the main scripture: Galatians 3:27-4:7

1. What does it mean to be "clothed with Christ"? How should this specific imagery affect how we present ourselves to the world daily?

2. Paul declares that in Christ, traditional societal boundaries (Jew/Greek, slave/free, male/female) are erased. In what ways do we still artificially divide the church today, and how does this verse challenge those divisions?

3. Why is it vital for our daily assurance to know we are Abraham's "seed" (heirs) based on a promise, rather than our performance or heritage?

4. Paul compares a child waiting to come of age to a slave. What do the "elementary principles of the world" refer to, and how can a legalistic lifestyle feel like "slavery"?

5. God sent Jesus at exactly the "fullness of time". Why is it comforting to know that God orchestrates historical and personal moments with perfect timing?

6. What was the dual purpose of Jesus being born "under the law"? How does this directly address the "curse" of trying to earn salvation through rule-keeping?

7. Because we are adopted, God sends the Spirit of His Son into our hearts. How does the Holy Spirit actively assure you of your relationship with God?

8. The term "Abba" is an intimate Aramaic word for "Father". How does this specific term change the way you approach God in prayer (from distant servant to beloved child)?

9. Since sons and daughters are also "heirs," how does your future inheritance shape how you view your present struggles?

Respond in Prayer

Pray to God that each one would live as a son or daughter in Christ and that everyone would live out their identity in Jesus.



Week 11: September 13, 2026 – Don't Turn Back

Main Scripture – Galatians 4:8–20

Message Overview: These thirteen verses find Paul reaffirming the tone with which he began this letter. Confounded, frustrated, and furious that the Galatians, who've been saved by the grace of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, have reverted to a works-based righteousness, trying to earn for themselves what can only be received through Christ. "How can you turn back?" is the question he asks. The same question has credence today.

Now that you've tasted the goodness, grace, and mercy of God through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, applied to you by grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, how can you turn back to the chains of slavery that Jesus broke to set you free?

Big Idea: How can you turn back?

Supporting Scriptures: Romans 8:1–4; 1 Corinthians 8:3; Hebrews 7:18–19

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: Think about someone who loves you enough to tell you a "hard truth." How did you feel about them in the moment, and how do you feel about them now? **Read the main scripture: Galatians 4:8-20**

1. Paul notes that before knowing God, the Galatians were "slaves to those who by nature are not gods." What are some modern-day "idols" or "elemental principles" that people become enslaved to when they don't know the true God?

2. Paul highlights the profound reality of being "known by God." How does your daily life change when you focus on being known by Him, rather than trying to know about Him or earn His approval?

3. Paul expresses fear that his labor over them has been in vain because they are observing special days, months, and seasons. Why do you think it is often easier to follow a checklist of religious rules rather than resting in the freedom of God's grace?

4. In what subtle ways can modern Christians slip back into "law-based" righteousness instead of relying on grace?

5. Paul reminds them of their initial reception of him, even when he was suffering from an illness. How did they treat him, and what does this show about their initial passion for the true gospel?

6. Paul asks what happened to their "joy" and wonders if he has become their enemy for telling them the truth. Why is it sometimes difficult to receive the truth, especially when it corrects our theological or personal blind spots?

7. Paul contrasts his motives with those of the false teachers, who "make much of you, but for no good purpose" (they seek to win the Galatians over for themselves). How can we discern between leaders who point people to Christ versus those who build followings for themselves?

8. Paul uses deeply emotional, maternal language: “My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!” What does this imagery reveal about Paul’s heart for the spiritual maturity of the church?

9. How does Paul’s example encourage you to care for and gently correct other believers who may be drifting from the truth?

Respond in Prayer

Share together how each person can encourage someone else to stay strong even in the midst of challenging circumstances.



Week 12: September 20, 2026 – Two Covenants

Main Scripture – Galatians 4:21–31

Message Overview: The Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul, continues expounding on the difference between Law and Grace, between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. And, like he did before, Paul references the two women by which sons were born to Abraham. This reference will demand a return to Genesis in order to understand the difference between Sarah and Hagar, between Isaac and Ishmael.

If your parents are slaves, then so are you. If your parents are free, then so are you. The Law enslaves; Grace frees. Therefore, the only way for freedom to be extended to those enslaved to the Law was through the Ultimate Son of Promise—the Lord Jesus Christ.

Big Idea: You are what your parents are.

Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 16, 21:1–21; 1 Peter 3:6

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: In your family or workplace, have you ever felt like you were treated differently or held to a different standard than someone else? What was that like? **Read the main scripture: Galatians 4:21-31**

1. Read Genesis 16:1-4 and Genesis 21:1-13. What were the circumstances surrounding the births of Ishmael and Isaac? How do these historical details map to Paul's argument in Galatians?

2. Paul mentions two covenants in verse 24. What are they, and where do they originate?

3. List all the contrasts Paul makes between the two mothers (Hagar and Sarah) and the two sons (Ishmael and Isaac).

4. In Paul's allegory, Hagar represents Mount Sinai and the Mosaic Law, which leads to slavery. Who or what do Sarah and the "Jerusalem above" represent, and why are they considered "free"?

5. In verse 27, Paul quotes Isaiah 54:1, which was originally addressed to a barren nation in exile. How does Paul apply this ancient prophecy to the Gentiles?

6. How does Paul compare Ishmael's mocking of Isaac to the religious conflicts of his own day? Why do you think living by the law often leads to hostility toward those living by grace?

7. Trying to earn God's love through human effort and rule-keeping is the modern-day equivalent of Hagar. What warning signs or symptoms suggest you are relying on your own effort rather than God's grace?

8. As children of promise, we are citizens of the "Jerusalem above". What challenges or distractions in your daily life make you forget this liberating truth?

9. What would it look like in your life to establish a legacy of freedom in Christ to those that know you?

Respond in Prayer

Spend time thanking God for you family and lift prayers for them as well.
