

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 3
STUDY GUIDE

Week 13: September 27, 2026 – Be free
Main Scripture – Galatians 5:1–6

Message Overview: The point of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is freedom. Freedom from Satan, sin, death, and hell. Freedom from trying to earn your way into heaven. Freedom to operate, every day of your life, from the very same love extended to you by the God of the universe. But this freedom is only accessible through faith in Jesus. The formula is simple: Jesus + nothing = EVERYTHING. This sermon will be an explicit presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the freedom it gives.

Big Idea: Jesus + nothing = EVERYTHING

Supporting Scriptures: John 8:31–36; 1 Corinthians 16:13; James 1:25

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: When you were a kid, what game did you play that involved some kind of 'base,' 'jail,' or 'time-out' from which you needed to be freed?

Read the main scripture: Galatians 5:1-6

1. What does Paul mean by "the yoke of slavery" in the context of the letter? What is the ultimate purpose of the freedom Christ gives us?

2. Why is adding requirements (like circumcision) to faith so dangerous? What does Paul mean when he says those who try to earn their righteousness have "fallen away from grace"?

3. In contrast to legalism, what do believers eagerly wait for, and how do we receive it? What is the only thing that ultimately "counts" in Christ?

4. How does this passage challenge the human tendency to want to earn God's approval through our own performance or "goodness"?

5. Paul talks about faith working through love. How does genuine faith naturally produce actions of love rather than just following a checklist of rules?

6. Verse 5 mentions waiting for righteousness by the Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit help us endure anxiety or feelings of guilt while we await our ultimate salvation?

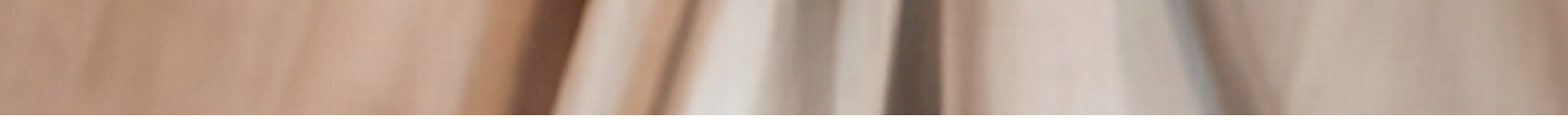
7. What are some modern-day "yokes of slavery" or extra rules we sometimes add to our faith as Christians today?

8. Have you ever experienced a time when you traded the freedom of God's grace for the burden of legalism or fear of not measuring up? How can you actively "stand firm" against this?

9. How is your faith actively expressing itself in love within your current circles? What is one specific, practical way you can demonstrate "faith working through love" this week?

Respond in Prayer

Share prayer requests together and pray to keep focus on faith in Christ alone and not in our own will and strength.



Week 14: October 4, 2026 – Freedom's Purpose

Main Scripture – Galatians 5:7–15

Message Overview: The freedom given through the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a freedom to pursue that which gives life, not to continue to be enslaved to that which brings death. Christ's freedom is the freedom to love and serve in the same way Christ loved and served you. Christ's freedom is not license to licentious living. Christ's freedom is the supernatural enablement, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to fulfil the Great Command: love God and love people.

Big Idea: Freedom lives to love and serve.

Supporting Scriptures: Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 2:16; 2 Peter 2:19; Jude 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: Think about a time when you were driving or walking and realized you were going the completely wrong way. How did you figure it out, and what did you do? **Read the main scripture: Galatians 5:7–15**

1. Paul asks, "You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth?" (v. 7). What are some modern-day "distractions" or false teachings that can derail a believer's spiritual progress?

2. In verse 9, Paul writes, "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." How does this illustrate the subtle and dangerous nature of sin and false doctrine in a church community?

3. In verse 10, Paul expresses confidence that the Galatians will not take the wrong path. How can a church community lovingly hold one another accountable to the truth?

4. Paul mentions "the offense of the cross" (v. 11). Why is the message of the cross sometimes considered offensive to our human nature?

5. In verse 12, Paul uses remarkably strong rhetoric regarding those who are agitating the church. What does this tell you about the seriousness of the situation and Paul's passion for preserving the gospel?

6. Paul states, "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh" (v. 13). How do you differentiate between the "freedom in Christ" and the worldly definition of freedom?

7. Verse 14 summarizes the entire law in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." How does resting in God's grace empower us to love others in ways that rule-following cannot?

8. In verse 15, Paul warns, “If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.” What are some warning signs that a Christian community is turning on itself and how can grace-filled love prevent this destruction.

9. How can you continue to cultivate a life that lives by the truth of the gospel and helps others do the same?

10. Are there any distractions in your life now that prevent you from living in the freedom of Christ?

Respond in Prayer

Pray for each other to live with freedom in Christ.

Week 15: October 11, 2026 – Spirit Versus Flesh

Main Scripture – Galatians 5:16–26

Message Overview: This passage of Scripture contains the famous "fruit(s) of the Spirit." In keeping with the theme of the undiluted Gospel, Paul outlines what the flesh produces in lives apart from surrender to Jesus' Lordship versus what the Spirit of God produces in lives surrendered to Jesus' Lordship.

The famous theologian, Dallas Willard, is recorded as saying, "Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning." That is the sentiment of this passage. Justification through works is an impossibility. Sanctification through works is not. However, the work of followers of Jesus is not to produce these attributes themselves, but to continuously surrender ("crucify the flesh" v. 24) to Jesus' Lordship over their lives, allowing His Spirit to produce His fruit in and through them.

Big Idea: Grace is not opposed to effort; it is opposed to earning.

Supporting Scriptures: Romans 7:7–8:17; Galatians 2:20

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: Have you ever tried to change something about yourself through willpower alone? What happened, and why do you think lasting transformation can be so difficult? **Read the main scripture: Galatians 5:6-26**

1. What stands out to you about the battle between the flesh and the Spirit? How does this passage challenge the idea that spiritual growth comes simply from trying harder?

2. Have someone read Romans 7:15–25 and Romans 8:1–17. How do these passages help us understand the tension Paul describes in Galatians 5? What hope does Romans 8 offer in the midst of the struggle against the flesh?

3. As you examine the works of the flesh in verses 19–21, what do you think lies beneath these behaviors? What do they reveal about a heart that seeks fulfillment, control, or identity apart from God? How might these attitudes still show up in subtle ways in our own lives?

4. After describing the works of the flesh, Paul contrasts them with the fruit of the Spirit in verses 22–23. What differences do you notice in their source and outcome? What does this teach us about the difference between trying to change ourselves through effort alone and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us from the inside out?

5. Read Galatians 2:20. After seeing the contrast between the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit, what does Paul reveal about the source of true transformation? What might it practically look like to die to self, surrender to Christ's Lordship, and allow His life to be lived through you?

6. In what areas of your life are you tempted to rely on your own effort to produce spiritual growth? How might God be inviting you to surrender those areas, die to self, and trust the Holy Spirit to produce His fruit in and through you?

7. Using the reading plan, take time each day this week to reflect on what God is teaching you through His Word. At the end of each day, ask yourself: Where did I rely on my own strength today, and where did I see evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in my life? Take time to thank God for His grace, confess any areas where you have been striving in your own effort, and invite Him to continue transforming you as you surrender more fully to His Spirit.

Respond in Prayer

Take a moment and pray through Galatians 5:16–26. Thank God that your relationship with Him is based on grace and not your performance. Ask Him to reveal any areas where you have been striving to earn what He has already freely given. Pray for the courage to crucify the desires of the flesh and surrender those areas to Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to produce His fruit in your life and to continue transforming you into the image of Christ.

Week 16: October 18, 2026 – Burden Carriers

Main Scripture – Galatians 6:1-10

Message Overview: While the Gospel of Jesus Christ is intensely intimate and personal, its implications are communal. The point is this: no one was meant to follow Jesus alone. Community provides encouragement, stabilization, and accountability.

Each individual follower of Jesus, therefore, is commanded to not only test his own work to see if it aligns with God's fruit, but to also live in humility to both provide encouragement, support, and accountability to fellow Believers, as well as receive it. This sermon will emphasize humility and community, two vital aspects of a Gospel-centered life.

Big Idea: Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking about yourself less.

Supporting Scriptures: Mark 2:1-12; Philippians 2:1-11; 1 Peter 5:6-11

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 of a time when someone came alongside you during a difficult season. How did their encouragement, support, or accountability impact your faith and walk with God? **Read the main scripture: Galatians 6:1-10**

1. What stands out to you about Paul's instructions to believers? What do these verses reveal about God's design for how followers of Jesus are meant to live in community with one another?

2. Have someone read Mark 2:1–12. What do you notice about the humility, faith, and determination of the friends who carried the paralyzed man to Jesus? How does their willingness to put someone else's needs before their own reflect the kind of community Paul describes in Galatians 6? What might pride, self-sufficiency, or fear keep us from doing the same for others today?

3. In verses 3–5, Paul warns against pride and self-deception while also calling believers to examine their own lives. What is the difference between healthy self-examination and comparing ourselves to others? Why is humility necessary for both spiritual growth and authentic community?

4. Take a look at Philippians 2:1–11 and Peter 5:6–11. Jesus modeled humility by putting the needs of others before His own, and Peter calls believers to humble themselves by depending on God and casting their cares on Him. What do these passages teach us about the connection between humility and community? How might dependence on God free us to think less about ourselves and more about serving and supporting others?

5. Paul tells believers to "bear one another's burdens" and in doing so fulfill the law of Christ. Why do you think carrying one another's burdens is such an important part of following Jesus? Which is more difficult for you: helping carry someone else's burden or allowing others to help carry yours?

6. As you reflect on these passages, are you more likely to approach community as someone who gives help, someone who receives help, or someone who keeps others at a distance? What might God be inviting you to do differently?

7. This week, intentionally take one step toward biblical community. Reach out to someone who may need encouragement, prayer, or support, or invite someone into an area of your own life where you need help. Ask God to help you practice humility by both giving and receiving care as part of the body of Christ.

Respond in Prayer

Take a moment to pray through Galatians 6:1–10. Thank God for the people He has placed in your life to encourage, support, and challenge you in your faith. Ask Him to reveal any pride, self-sufficiency, or fear that keeps you from living in authentic community. Pray for a humble heart that is willing to both carry the burdens of others and allow others to help carry yours. Ask God to help you sow to the Spirit by loving, serving, and encouraging those around you.

Week 17: October 25, 2026 – Boast About Jesus

Main Scripture – Galatians 6:11–18

Message Overview: : These last few verses of Paul's letter serve as an obvious bookend as Paul wraps up where he began—the Gospel of Grace. Jesus lived sinlessly. Jesus died sacrificially. Jesus rose gloriously. Jesus reigns victoriously. Jesus and Jesus alone accomplished everything necessary for human salvation. Therefore, Jesus and Jesus alone is the only One worthy of honor, glory, and praise.

Human beings are merely blood-bought beneficiaries of all that Jesus has done. So, if there's anything to boast in it certainly isn't what sinners bring to the equation. Boasting about the Savior is the only boasting becoming of a Christian.

Big Idea: Boast about Jesus.

Supporting Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 2:1–5; 2 Corinthians 5:17

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 are some things people are tempted to find their identity, value, or worth in? Why do you think we naturally want something to boast in?
Read the main scripture: Galatians 6:11-18

1. What stands out to you about the contrast Paul makes between those who boast in outward appearances and his decision to boast only in the cross of Christ?

2. In Paul's day, many people found confidence in their religious achievements and outward appearances. What are some modern-day things Christians can be tempted to boast in or place their confidence in instead of Christ?

3. Paul says, "Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ," because the cross reminded him that everything he had and everything he was had come through God's grace, not his own efforts. Why do you think Paul considered the cross to be the only thing worth boasting about? What does this reveal about the Gospel and God's grace?

4. What are you most tempted to boast in, and how does the cross invite you to shift your confidence back to Jesus?

5. Have someone read 1 Corinthians 2:1–5 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. Paul points people away from himself and toward Christ, while also reminding believers that they are new creations in Him. What do these passages reveal about the difference between finding our identity in ourselves versus finding it in Christ?

6. Knowing that your identity is found in Christ and that you are a new creation in Him, how would your priorities, confidence, and sense of worth change if you lived from that truth each day rather than allowing your successes or failures to define you? What fears, pressures, or expectations might you be free to let go of?

7. If someone examined your life, what would they conclude you boast in most? Would they see confidence in your achievements, your circumstances, or in the person and work of Jesus?

8. This week, pay attention to where you are tempted to find your identity, security, or significance. When you notice yourself boasting in your own accomplishments, performance, or reputation, pause and thank Jesus for what He has accomplished on your behalf. Using the reading plan, spend time reflecting on how the Gospel shapes your identity as a new creation and ask God to help you boast in Christ above all else.

Respond in Prayer

Take a moment to pray through Galatians 6:11–18. Thank Jesus for accomplishing everything necessary for your salvation through His life, death, and resurrection. Confess any areas where you have been tempted to find your identity, worth, or confidence in your own achievements rather than in Christ. Ask God to help you boast in Jesus above all else and to continually remind you that your value comes not from what you do for Him, but from what He has already done for you.