



SESSION 3 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GOSPEL FREEDOM – THE WEIGHT OF OUR SIN

GET STARTED

- Growing up, who was the disciplinarian in your family? When you broke the rules, what was the worst form of punishment you could receive (more chores, no TV, no phone, no friends, no car, no activities, etc.)? How were grace and forgiveness offered in your family?
- Do you ever have a hard time accepting gifts? Do you feel like you have to reciprocate the gift or need to have earned it in order to receive it? What might condition us to be this way?

TAKE IT IN

- Watch Session 3: Gospel Freedom at mynorthside.com/galatians. What encouraged or challenged you from the video and/or daily study guide this week?


TALK IT OVER

Read Galatians 3:1-5

- Sometimes, the Gospel just sounds too good to be true. What has been your experience with Christianity? Did you initially understand it as something based on faith or on rules? How has your perspective changed over the years?
- In verse 3, Paul asks the Galatians if they are trying to attain their goal by human effort? This question points out that they were raising personal accomplishment and relying on religious legalism over the Gospel. What happens when you try to follow God by your own religious or moral effort? How do you recognize when you're living by human effort rather than the Spirit?

Read Galatians 3:6-14

- Paul uses four words several times in a few verses—"bless," "righteous," "curse," and "law." What do you notice about these words in the passage? Lately, have you been feeling more blessed or cursed?
- Paul turned to the Old Testament as evidence that we are justified by faith alone. Think about how this truth might have sounded to the Jews trying to earn salvation through the Old Testament Law. How would it make you feel to discover that everything you had ever worked for was now available for free?

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- **Read James 2:14-26.** Faith and works interact differently in the context of salvation and Gospel living. While Paul and James both discuss faith and works, Paul focuses on coming to Christ, while James emphasizes living in Christ. **What insights can be drawn from these passages regarding the roles of faith and living out the Gospel?**

Read Galatians 3:19-25

- Look back over the passage. **How does the Law prepare us for grace? What difference does it make when you base your relationship with God on how well you keep a list of rules, rather than living so that God accepts you through faith? When are you most tempted to look to your own efforts to make yourself acceptable to God?**
- Faith sets us free from the imprisonment of sin. **What are some of the changes that have occurred in your life since embracing the freedom of the Gospel?**
- Even though we are free in Christ, the journey of faith can still be filled with struggles, as evident in Galatians. It's common for us to fall back into our former way of life, even though it was a prison. Thankfully, Christ offers us daily doses of grace, freedom, and guidance. **Is there a specific aspect of Gospel freedom that you're finding challenging in your life right now? How can we, as a group, support and pray for each other in overcoming these challenges?**

LIVE IT OUT

How have you experienced freedom in Christ since becoming a Christian? This week, take some time to compile a list of all of these experiences. Afterwards, spend some time thanking God for setting you free. In response to your freedom, consider sharing your list and thankfulness with a friend.

Daily Bible Study: Take 30 minutes each day to complete the daily study guide. Don't think of it as homework, but relational time growing alongside your Heavenly Father. Your time with God will transform you and help encourage others. Come ready to discuss what you are learning at the next group session.

Memorize: *But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.*

– **Galatians 3:22**