

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Gospel Tribune

WOODSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

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GOOD NEWS!

Truth Has Been Found!
Everywhere we turn, some...

DISCUSSION GOAL



Discuss what it means to be blessed by God & how faith alone in Christ alone is the source of our blessing.

ICE BREAKER



Share a time you were influenced to purchase something by an ad and were disappointed by the product.

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

Galatians 3:1-14

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. ² Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? ⁵ Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— ⁶ just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” ⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” ¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” ¹² But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— ¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: God’s blessing comes by faith alone in Christ alone.

Key Question: How do we experience the blessings of God?

1. Do the Spirit’s blessings come by works? (vv. 1-5)
2. Does the blessing of justification come by ethnic pedigree? (vv. 6-9)
3. Does the blessing of redemption come by obeying the law? (vv. 10-14)

DISCUSSION



- The church in Galatia had adopted the belief that God was blessing them because of their good works. In what ways can we be fooled into believing we're receiving God's blessings because of our works?
- In Galatians 3:1-5 Paul asks a series of rhetorical questions meant to redirect the church to live by faith, not by works. It seems like the Galatians had slipped into living by works without even realizing it! Discuss ways you can tell if you are trusting your own works or living by faith.
- In Galatians 3:6 Paul makes a bold claim that by faith all who believe in Jesus are Abraham's children (God's chosen people), not just those born into the line of Abraham. What are external conditions that you might put on someone else to determine or judge if they are truly a Christian (examples: born into Christian family, belonging to political party, socio-economic class, certain behaviors)?
- Reread Galatians 3:10-14. It is impossible to fully keep the law. It is only by faith in Jesus' saving work on the cross that we can be redeemed. How is trusting in Jesus' perfect fulfillment of the law more freeing and life-giving than trying to perfectly keep the law to self-justify ourselves to God?
- Read Luke 18:18-30. In this story, attachment to riches prevented the ruler from following Christ. Besides works, what other things prevent us from fully giving our life to Christ? What place does obedience to God have in the Christian life? (Turn to James 2:14-16 for help with this answer)

LIFE APPLICATION



God's blessing comes from faith alone in Christ alone! As a group discuss how you can recognize when you are putting works before faith and come up with your next step towards living a life fully reliant on faith.

jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS


