

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Gospel Tribune

WOODSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

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GOOD NEWS!

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

DISCUSSION GOAL



To understand what it means to be heirs of God and not slaves to the law.

ICE BREAKER



What was your least favorite chore as a child? Did you have a favorite chore?

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

Galatians 3:15-4:7

¹⁵ To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. ¹⁶ Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. ¹⁷ This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

¹⁹ Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. ²⁰ Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

²¹ Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. ²² But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

(Turn to Galatians in the ESV bible to continue reading verses 3:23-4:7)

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: We are no longer slaves but sons and heirs of God.

Key Question: How should we live in light of these gospel truths?

1. The powerlessness of the law. (vv. 15-18)
2. The purpose of the law. (vv. 19-24)
3. The promise of adoption. (vv. 3:25-4:7)

DISCUSSION



- In this week's passage, Paul distinguishes the promise of the gospel and the purpose of the law. As you read through Galatians 3:15-4:7 discuss what the purpose is of each (the law & the gospel) and how Paul shows Jesus Christ to be the fulfillment to both.
- Paul teaches about the powerlessness of the law to fulfill God's promises in verses 15-18. Do you struggle with associating God's blessings with following his rules? If so, how does this play out in your life?
- In verses 19-24, Paul makes it clear that the true purpose of God's law is both to restrain our sins from getting out of control as well as to reveal our sins in respect to God's standards. How have you seen the law accomplish these two things (restraining and revealing sin)? Discuss how these two things point to our need for a savior.
- Galatians 3:25-4:7 promises that through faith in the saving work of Christ, we become sons and heirs of God through adoption. How does it make you feel to be adopted into the family of God? How does the idea of adoption speak to your relationship with God?
- Read Romans 8:12-17. All of God's promises have been fulfilled in the work and person of Jesus Christ. Considering Paul states here that we are "fellow heirs with Christ" what implications does this have for our life?

LIFE APPLICATION



This week's passage teaches us that God's promises are fulfilled through Jesus Christ and are not dependent on our living up to his standards. That is the good news of the gospel! As a group, discuss how you can live this week not as slaves to the law, but rather as sons and heirs of God.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS


