

CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

October 6, 2019

“GALATIANS 4:19-31”

For more information or to join a Growth Group, please visit our Growth Group page online at cbclife.org/groups or call the church office at 408.288.4115.

QUICK REVIEW

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
2. What is one thing from Sunday's message you are likely to remember two weeks from now?

MY STORY

1. Abraham ends up with a non-nuclear/traditional family construct as a result of fathering Ishmael with Hagar. Did you grow up in a traditional nuclear family or a less traditional one?
2. On Sunday Pastor Jeff said that the passage on which the teaching was based can often leave people confused. What has your experience reading the Bible been like? Has it been challenging or relatively easy? Have you been at it a while or are you new to reading the Bible?

Allow these questions to be a driver of discussion, especially because this is your first meeting, these should serve a primary “get-to-know-you” questions and break the ice for your meeting. It's ok if people do not want to share also, talking about family may have the side-affect of opening up a lot of hurt so don't place any undue pressure on anyone to share.

DIGGING DEEPER

READ GALATIANS 4:21-31

21 Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? **22** For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. **23** His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

1. In verse 21, what does it mean to want to be “under the law”? (Compare with 4:4-5 and 5:16-20.)
It means to want to work out your own salvation by the works that you do. Creating a system where it relies on you and your works for salvation rather than the finished work of Christ on the cross.
2. Why do you think Paul can say that those under the law don't really listen to what the law says?

Talk about how the law points us to our need for a Savior, the closer we study the law, it should reveal to us how desperate we are for Jesus' redemption in our lives. There is not one point of the law that we can fully live up to and obey, so we need Jesus' all-encompassing grace to give us freedom from the bondage of the law.

24 These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. **25** Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. **26** But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. **27** For it is written: "Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child, shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband." **28** Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. **29** At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. **30** But what does Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son." **31** Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

DIGGING DEEPER (cont.)

3. Read the story behind this passage in Genesis 16:1-4; 18:10-14; 21:1-10.

- How were the births of these two sons different (v. 23)?

One is a birth from the promise from God and one is trying to force God's hand, trying to work out of their own strength rather than from faith.

4. What does Paul say each birth/mother represents (vv. 24-26)? Why?

They represent the two covenants - Old and New, freedom and slavery. This is important because of the Galatians tendency to move back to the Old Covenant and live under the law than under the freedom of Jesus.

5. The residents of Jerusalem would regard Sarah as their mother and Hagar as the mother of the Gentiles. Why does Paul reverse things? How does this bolster his argument in 3:7 and 4:7-9?

Speak about the new way, what Paul came to accomplish as the missionary to the Gentiles, how Jesus brings about a unity within the body of Christ that extends beyond racial, ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic differences.

6. Read verse 27. What does Paul imply by quoting Isaiah 54:1?

- How does Sarah serve as an encouraging picture to all who consider themselves to have failed or been disappointed?

Jesus can and does redeem and give life and peace to those we often overlook. Even in the midst of our failures, missteps, and the areas of our lives where we feel disappointed, the presence of Jesus in our lives sees promises answered.