

### Getting Started

Talk about a time in the past month or so when someone went out of his or her way to be helpful to you. What was it like to receive that kindness?

### Word

Read aloud Galatians 4:8-31

1. Spend most of your time this week in 4:8-20 using *The Message* translation found on the back of this insert. When you read these words of Paul what kind of tone do you "hear"?
2. How are these words in 4:8-20 different than the passages we've looked at in the first three chapters?
3. What do you learn about Paul from this passage?
4. Compare 4:19 in a couple of different translations. What was the goal of Paul's ministry?
5. Paul longs to see Christ formed in the lives of the Galatians. How do we know when Christ is formed in us? How does this formation happen? How do we go about encouraging this formation in others?
6. For extra credit, look at 4:21-30 where Paul returns to the story of Abraham to make a point. What is that point?

### Share

Invite the people in your group to share any blessings or concerns they have from the past week.

### Prayer

Pray for each other in sentence prayers.

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November 5, 2017

*Galatians: Paul's Letter of Freedom*

Galatians 4:8-31

## Sermon Notes

1. How is this week's passage different from what we've read so far in Galatians?
2. What is the goal of Paul's ministry?

### **Galatians 4:8-20** *The Message*

8-11 Earlier, before you knew God personally, you were enslaved to so-called gods that had nothing of the divine about them. But now that you know the real God—or rather since God knows you—how can you possibly subject yourselves again to those paper tigers? For that is exactly what you do when you are intimidated into scrupulously observing all the traditions, taboos, and superstitions associated with special days and seasons and years. I am afraid that all my hard work among you has gone up in a puff of smoke!

12-13 My dear friends, what I would really like you to do is try to put yourselves in my shoes to the same extent that I, when I was with you, put myself in yours. You were very sensitive and kind then. You did not come down on me personally. You were well aware that the reason I ended up preaching to you was that I was physically broken, and so, prevented from continuing my journey, I was forced to stop with you. That is how I came to preach to you.

14-16 And don't you remember that even though taking in a sick guest was most troublesome for you, you chose to treat me as well as you would have treated an angel of God—as well as you would have treated Jesus himself if he had visited you? What has happened to the satisfaction you felt at that time? There were some of you then who, if possible, would have given your very eyes to me—that is how deeply you cared! And now have I suddenly become your enemy simply by telling you the truth? I can't believe it.

17 Those heretical teachers go to great lengths to flatter you, but their motives are rotten. They want to shut you out of the free world of God's grace so that you will always depend on them for approval and direction, making them feel important.

18-20 It is a good thing to be ardent in doing good, but not just when I am in your presence. Can't you continue the same concern for both my person and my message when I am away from you that you had when I was with you? Do you know how I feel right now, and will feel until Christ's life becomes visible in your lives? Like a mother in the pain of childbirth. Oh, I keep wishing that I was with you. Then I wouldn't be reduced to this blunt, letter-writing language out of sheer frustration.

People you want to pray for:

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