

Epistle of Paul to the

Galatians

Free &

Filled

Galatians 1:1-2:6

for Freedom
Christ
set us free
Galatians 5:1

LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY
COLOSSIANS 3:16



"Let the Word of Christ
dwell in you richly."

Colossians 3:16

Lesson Two Day One

Grace Group

Open with prayer then recite memory verse from the previous lesson.

<u>DAY</u>	<u>PAGES</u>	<u>Thinking Back to our last lesson...</u>
1...	16 & 19	Share something you learned, loved, or were encouraged by from the previous message and/or Grace Group time.
2...	19-20	"What if..." (pg 19); "Hey Paul!" (pg 20)
3...	21-22	"Relating to the Word" (pg 21) Share one observation from Galatians 1:15-2:6
4...	23-24	"Remember & Relate" (pg 23); "Reading Truth" (pg 24)
5...	25-26	"Relating to the Word" (pg 25); "One Word" (pg 26)
6...	27-28	"Relating to the Word" (pg 27)
7...	29-30	"Relating to the Word" (pg 29) Share one observation from Gal. 5:1-6 (pg 30)
8...	31-32	"Remember & Relate" (pg 31); "The Plan Connection" (pg 32)
9...	33-34	"The Priorities Connection" (pg 34)
10...	35-36	Create & Share

There's a lot going on in your life and your heart this week.
Please let us come alongside and lift you up in prayer.

Share in the group prayer journal, with your Grace Group leader

Pastor Jennifer is available to meet with you for pastoral care and prayer time as well.
Contact: 562.755.4964 / jennifergrichmond@gmail.com

You are loved and prayed for!

Teaching time is next. Take notes on the next page...

Lesson Two Day One

Teaching Time

Review of Lesson One - Welcome to Galatians



Watch/Listen to this message on the "Dwelling Richly" podcast - YouTube, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or any platform/app you enjoy.

Lesson Two Day One

Day by Day

An overview of this lesson. Use the checklist to help you plan your time with God: "TWiG Time."

☒	<u>My Dates</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Content</u>
	September 24 or 25	1	Grace Groups & Teaching <u>Read & Write the Word</u>
☐		2	Galatians 1:1-2:6
☐		3	(various Scriptures)
☐		4	Galatians 1:1-5
☐		5	Galatians 1:6-10
☐		6	Galatians 1:11-14
☐		7	Galatians 1:15-17
☐		8	Galatians 1:18-24
☐		9	Galatians 2:1-6
☐		10	Create & Share
	October 8 or 9	14	Grace Groups & Teaching Review Lesson 2

...Memorize & Meditate...

Galatians 1:8 (ESV)

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

(Memorize from any translation.)

Learn Greek!

Look for "It's Greek to Me" call-out boxes throughout the lessons.



...Write the Word...

Galatians 1:1-2:6

"Write the Word" pages are available printed for you at Bible study or on the Bible study webpage for you to download and print.

We will begin writing Galatians in Day Four of this lesson. Daily writing portions will be the same as the daily reading portion.

At the end of this study you will have all of Galatians written by hand! Wow! That's a big accomplishment!

Lesson Two Day One

My Heart to Yours...

Have you ever been on a journey that felt uncertain at the start? Maybe you weren't sure where the road would lead, or if you even had the strength to keep going. As we begin this next part of our study through Galatians, I invite you to think about that feeling. Paul was on a journey too—one filled with uncertainty, opposition, and yet bold faith.

In the passage ahead of us, we see his heart, his mission, and his deep conviction that the message of Christ, not the approval of people, would guide his every step.

This is where we find ourselves today—on a journey of faith that sometimes feels unsure, where the voices around us pull in different directions, and where the temptation to please others *or even ourselves* can drown out the simplicity of the Gospel.

But let's take a deep breath together and remind ourselves: we're not on this path alone. Christ has called us, just as He called Paul, not by our works but by His grace. He has set us on this journey, not to strive, but to walk in the freedom that He so graciously gives.

We are a people who love and expect freedom. No restraints, to sing in a sense, like Pinocchio, "I've got no strings to hold me down" And yet we string ourselves up just the same by the expectations to do things to make sure people and even God accepts us. In this study we will find or rediscover what has been beautifully said about the uniqueness of Christian freedom,

"Christian Freedom is not the right to do as I wish,
but the power to do as I should."

It is finding out that not only are we free, but we are filled with God's Spirit to remain truly free.

Paul is a fierce example for us. A loving and firm – even fiery – pastor who holds nothing back to speak the truth boldly. God's Words through Paul's pen soar across the centuries and land right on our hearts to call us to remain like him, rooted in the truth of the Gospel, unwavering in his calling, and focused on the grace that had already been given.

I pray that you will know the same assurance that Paul did—confidence not in what others say or in your own efforts, but in the One who called you.

When you've felt like you needed approval, when you've looked to others for affirmation or struggled to hold onto what's true in the face of opposition – this letter is for you. Take heart, dear friend, as you study today and know that your freedom is not found in proving yourself but resting in the One who has already made you whole.

Free and filled,

 Jennifer

Lesson Two Day Two

Memorize & Meditate

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| ☐ 1.  Pray... for your Grace Group | ☐ 4.  Write the Word (begins Day Four) |
| ☐ 2.  Memorize/Meditate Gal. 1:8 | ☐ 5.  Community Check in & say “hi” in the group. |
| ☐ 3.  Simply Read Galatians 1:1-2:6 | ☐ 6.  Worship _____ |

"I study my Bible as I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest may fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf."
-Martin Luther

Thinking Back...

Share a point from the message or your Grace Group time that you found helpful or encouraging.

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D.W.E.L.L.

In each lesson, **Day Two** is a focused version of what we did in Lesson One when we “shook the tree.” Now we go out on a limb and shake again looking for fruit by dwelling in the Word.
Use the word “dwell” to help as you read:

- D-Discover:** Find the who, to whom, what, where, when; Summarize the passage in a word or phrase
- W-Wonder:** Ask questions: What does this word or idea mean? What is God revealing?
- E-EXAMINE:** What’s the context? New or repeated words, phrases, or concepts?
- L-Link:** Note cross-references with other Scriptures Old or New. Connect to a worship song.
- L-Live:** What is God asking you to live out in your life? Confess or submit to Him?

Discover – Wonder – Examine – Link – Live...DWELL

NOTE: Passages are grouped to align with the reading from each day in this lesson.
Focus primarily on the “D.W.E” of D.W.E.L.L. in these sections. In the coming days of the lesson, we will move in on the “L.L.” If a song comes to mind as you read, write the title in the Worship space above.

Galatians 1:1-5 (reading for Day Four)

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Lesson Two Day Two

Galatians 1:6-10 (reading for Day Five)

Galatians 1:11-14 (reading for Day Six)

Galatians 1:15-17 (reading for Day Seven)

Galatians 1:18-24 (reading for Day Eight)

Galatians 2:1-6 (reading for Day Nine)

Plan ahead! This is Buddy Day! On Day Nine you'll be learning more about Barnabas and Titus. Select a friend or friends from your Grace Group or a family member to do this day with. One of you will learn about Barnabas the other about Titus. Plan today and enjoy connecting with your Bible study buddy. Share what you learned and bless one another.

Today is a good day to look ahead to Day Ten, "Create & Share."

Lesson Two Day Three

Memorize & Meditate

- ☐ 1.  Pray...for Grace Group leaders
- ☐ 2.  Memorize/Meditate Gal. 1:8
- ☐ 3.  Simply Read Acts 7:1-18:41

"We must read our Bibles like men digging for hidden treasure." ~J.C.Ryle

Two amazing accounts in the Bible were written by a well-loved, brilliant man – a 1st century doctor named Luke, “the beloved physician” (Col. 4:14). His first account we call “The Gospel of Luke.” In his own words he wrote this to be “a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us” of “all that Jesus began to do and teach” (Luke 1:1; Acts 1:1) The second account is what we call “The Acts of the Apostles” - the account of what happened after Jesus ascended and gave the Holy Spirit.

Chapters 1-8 of Acts detail the incredible growth of the early church including miracles, a couple of shocking deaths, and the mission of the disciples and apostles as they started to get the good news out – the Gospel – about the Messiah, Jesus. What a gift to have these details of the early church! Beginning in chapter seven of Acts, Luke casually introduces Saul, a man on a mission. Two chapters later, Saul has this mission entirely changed. He will go on to become the greatest force for the cause of Christ and a fierce defender of the faith. Early in his ministry he writes his first letter. It is that letter we are studying. Before this letter, Saul’s mission had to be redirected – massively – so that he would be a part of God’s mission.

Read the following, and let’s get to know Paul - also known as Saul.

Who He Was.

	WHERE	WHO	WHAT HAPPENS?
Acts 7:58-8:3			
Acts Ch. 9 v. 1-9			
v. 10-19			
v. 20-22			
v. 23-25			
v. 26-31			

(continued next page)

Acts 13:1-9

Where He Went.



- (4) Derbe



Acts 18:22-23

Man on a Mission.

In Paul's own words, what was his mission? Read Acts 13:47.

Lesson Two Day Four

Memorize & Meditate

- ☐ 1.  **Pray...**for your family.
- ☐ 2.  **Memorize/Meditate** Gal. 1:8
- ☐ 3.  **Simply Read** Galatians 1:1-5
- ☐ 4.  **Write the Word** Galatians 1:1-5
Download the Write the Word pages from the Dwelling Richly Bible study page or pick up printed pages at Bible study.

Thinking Back...

1. **Remember & Relate:** What is one detail that stands out to you from the Day Three readings?

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Making Connections...

2. **Writing the Word.** Before what we call the “New Testament” was collected, the Holy Spirit was inspiring the apostles to write the Word in accounts like Luke, John, Acts, and epistles – letters – like Peter’s, James’, and Paul’s. Paul wrote 13 (14 if he wrote Hebrews) of the 27 books in the New Testament. Below is a list of Paul’s epistles in the order he wrote them. Read **the first two verses** of each, and note similarities or differences:

	AD 47-48 Galatians	AD 49-51 1 and 2 Thessalonians	AD 52-56 1 and 2 Corinthians, Romans	AD 60-62 Ephesians, Philemon, Colossians, Philippians	AD 62 1 Timothy and Titus	AD 63-64 2 Timothy
Paul calls himself...						
Others named?						
Addressed to?						
Compliment?						
Tone?						
Other Notes:						

3. **An Apostle's Epistle.** Read Mark 3:13-15. This is the first time “apostle” is used in the Bible. Who appointed the first apostles? _____ What was their mission, and how is Paul continuing that mission?

⋮

4. **Just So We're Clear.** (1:1) Paul begins Galatians with a greeting that brings clarity to his mission. What does he state about who he is? Who is he NOT?

⋮

Why do you think he includes a “not” statement in his greeting?

IT'S GREEK TO ME



ἀπόστολος

(ap-os'-tol-os)

a messenger, one sent on a mission

ἐπιστολή

(ep-is-tol-ay')

A letter, epistle, message

Lesson Two Day Four

Dwelling in the Word...

5. **From Whom? To Whom?** Who is sending this letter? To whom was it written?
(Try writing the Greek words for each of these with your answers.)

FROM: _____ and _____

TO: _____

How many religions do you think there are in the world today? Estimates vary from 4,000 to over 10,000! With so many belief systems, what makes them distinct? - beliefs about who God is, who Jesus is, who we are as people, and what the issues (if any!) they believe the world and mankind has.

In the opening verses of this letter - *if you are careful to read* - you will find a clear understanding of what makes Christianity distinct. The understanding of God is "theology" (theos/god + logia/word). Understanding Jesus, mankind (our origin, purpose, destiny), and this world (its origin, purpose, destiny) are all part of our faith and doctrines. Some might shy away from learning doctrines, but it is simply a way to understand what we believe, and since Paul opens this letter with some basic doctrines, this is where we will begin as well:

IT'S GREEK TO ME



ἀδελφοί

(ad-el-fos')

siblings (male or female)
in a family; translated
"brothers" or "brothers
and sisters"

ἐκκλησία

(ek-klay-see'ah)

An assembly,
congregation, church
/ek "out from" and /kaleo,
"to call"

6. **Knowing God.** What essential truths about God do you see in these opening verses?

Who is God? "the" _____ (1:1) and also "our" _____ (1:3)

What has He done? (1:1, 4)

What other truths about God can you dig from Galatians 1:1-5?

7. **Knowing Jesus.** (1:1-5) What truths about Jesus does Paul state in these opening verses?

8. **Knowing Ourselves and this World.** (1:4) What truths about who we are, what we need, and the state of the world does Paul state?

9. **Free and Filled.** Consider any one of the truths you found about God, Jesus, Mankind, and the World. Which of those truths do you think is most likely to be very different from other religions? Which truth do you think is hard for some people to accept? Respond to one or both of those and why you believe that:

Memorize & Meditate

- write in *Fancy Lettering*

Thinking Back...Galatians 1:1-5

- ■ ■ ■ ■**

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Dwelling in the Word...Galatians 1:6-10

- Timing: _____

4

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(thou-mad'-zo)

(yoo-ang-ghel'ee-on)

(an-ath'-em-ah)

Translated: "accursed"

(doo'-los)

Lesson Two

Lesson Two Day Five

5. **Called in...**(1:6) Consider the many ways someone could be called – in anger, in obligation, with conditions, etc. Now, think about how Paul describes so simply how the Galatians – us too! – had been called and by whom.

6. **Troubling Teachers.** (1:7) How does Paul describe the source of the problem

If this could happen only a few years after Jesus had been walking with them, teaching in person, and so many of them had seen Him after the resurrection, and even more had experienced the Holy Spirit at Pentecost – then what cautions should we all take to keep from turning to the troubling teachers who are twisting the Gospel today?

7. **Why so angry, Paul?** (1:8-9) What does Paul say (twice!) should happen to any false teacher? Why is he so angry about this?

8. **Righteous Anger.** (1:10) What does Paul point out is the test of accurate righteous anger?

How does Paul's description of himself in v. 10 compare with his description in v. 1? Why do you think this is significant?

9. **Free and Filled.** Up to this point, Paul has not actually stated the exact distortion, only that some “trouble you” with “another gospel.” What about you? Are you so aware of the true Gospel that you could recognize a false one? Are you willing to point out a false gospel? How does Paul's passion in 1:10 guide you to identify and respond to another gospel if you were to see it?

Memorize & Meditate

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Thinking Back...Galatians 1:6-10

1. **Remember & Relate:** How would you describe Paul's tone in verses 6-10? What motivated that tone?

2. **Paul's Motive.** How does Paul's firm stand on seeking God's approval - not man's - challenge you in your life today?

(ap-ok-al'-opp-sis)

an uncovering, unveiling,
revealing
Translated; revelation

Dwelling in the Word...Galatians 1:11-14

- 3. 3 Degrees of Separation.** (1:11-12) Draw a simple chart or illustration to show the point Paul is making in verses 11-12. (Stick figures are awesome!)

- Why is this point so essential to Paul's argument against false teachers? How does this testimony give credibility to Paul's message?

Lesson Two Day Six

4. **Three Wrongs. One Right.** (1:11-12) What three things does Paul deny? What one thing does he affirm?

(1) Not...(v. 11)

(1) But I...(v. 12c)

(2) Not...(v. 12a)

(3) Not...(v. 12b)

5. **I know that you know what I know and who I knew!** (1:13-14) It would almost be comical if it weren't so serious! Come on, people, you know my story! Not only had the Galatians heard about Paul's backstory, but Paul knew they knew it! What was Paul's former life like? He gives the abbreviated account in v. 13-14, but in Acts, he gets into the details! Use the details from Paul's own words in Galatians and Acts and note your observations here about Paul's former life in Judaism. Note in particular what happened to many people* as a direct result of Paul's "previous (former) way (manner) of life":

*Acts 8:1-3; 22:3-5, 19-20; 26:4-11;

6. **There's too Much at Stake.** Paul was shockingly forceful in describing what should happen to the one who perverts the Gospel: "Let him be cursed!" Then, when he could have gone easy on himself describing his past, he doesn't at all. He wasn't just in Judaism but a *persecutor*. He was not just disrupting but "violent" and bent on "destruction." He wasn't just eager, he was "extremely" zealous for man's traditions. How is Paul's honesty about his past and zeal for the Gospel an example for you today, especially considering how relentlessly the world's message preaches tolerance, acceptance, and the "we shouldn't judge" motto? Is Paul's strong passion in any way intimidating to you? When you consider the way you live out your faith, does it inspire you or make you uncomfortable when you compare yourself to Paul? There's a lot to think about here. Take the time to reflect on Paul's testimony and its impact on how you live out your faith today. Write your thoughts:

Lesson Two Day Seven

Memorize & Meditate

- ☐ 1.  **Pray...** for personal diligence
- ☐ 2.  **Memorize/Meditate** Gal. 1:8
write in ALL CAPS
- ☐ 3.  **Simply Read** Galatians 1:15-17
- ☐ 4.  **Write the Word** Galatians 1:15-17

Thinking Back...Galatians 1:11-14

1. **Remember & Relate:** Review verses 13-14 and list how Paul refers to himself and his actions.

How he received/didn't receive the Gospel:

His former life in Judaism:

Dwelling in the Word... Galatians 1:15-17

2. **But God.** (1:15-16a) In verses 13-14, Paul speaks of himself: *"I persecuted...I tried to destroy...I was advancing...I was extremely zealous..."* Then there's an abrupt shift. Do you see it? Review verses 15-16a and note how Paul refers to what God did:

First God... when?

Next God... how?

Then God... to do what?

All because God...

3. **Only Paul?** Is Paul unique in this? Does God set others apart? Call others and reveal Himself to them for a greater plan? Read and see. Note who God chose and for what purpose:

Romans 9:10-12 - and -

Jeremiah 1:5 - -

Luke 1:13-17 - -

IT'S GREEK TO ME



ἀφορίζω

(af-or-id'-zo)

to mark off by
boundaries, set apart
/apo, "separated from"
+ /horizo "make
boundaries

Translated: set apart

σὰρξ καὶ αἷματι

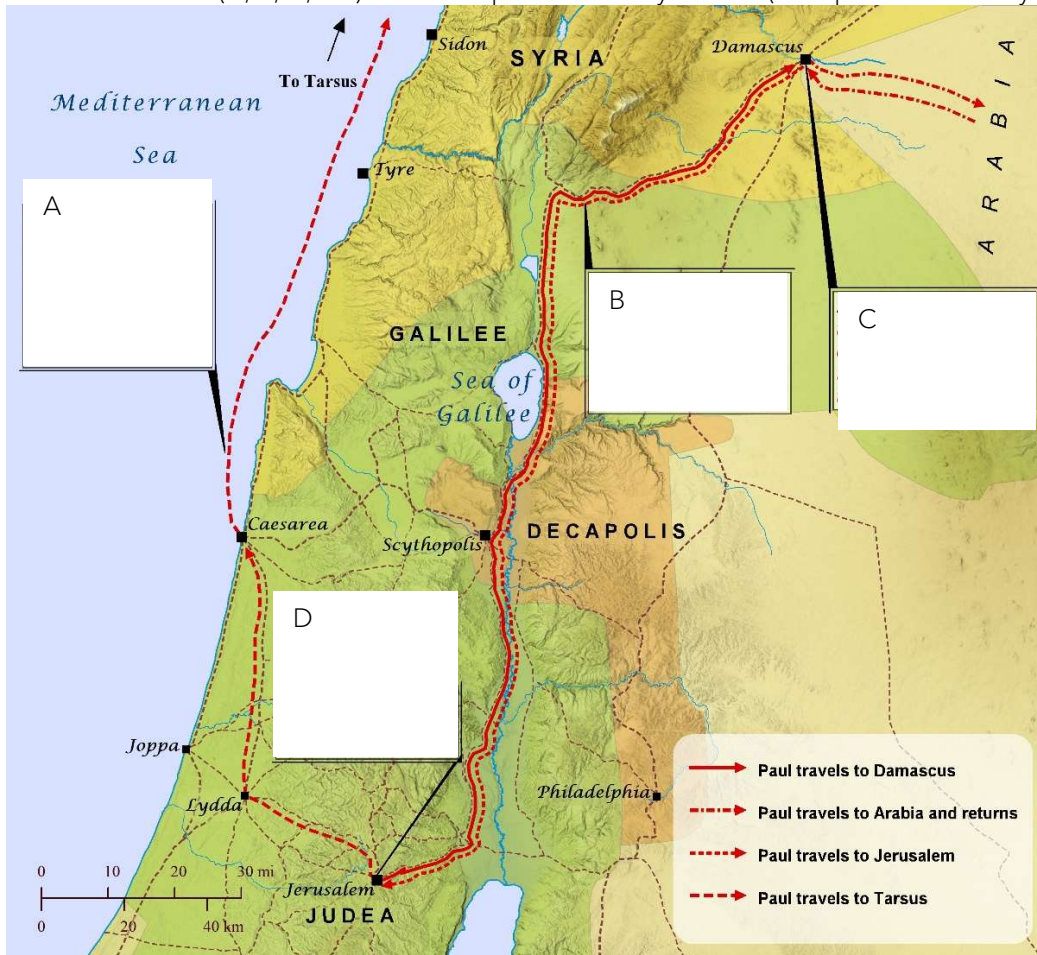
(sar-kee) (kai) (hai-ma-ti)

(flesh) (and) (blood)

Translated: "anyone" in
(Gal. 1:16)

Lesson Two Day Seven

4. **Blinded by the Light and Beyond.** Read the passages detailing Paul's conversion. Connect the passage to a location (A, B, C, etc) on the map and note key details. (Complete #1-3 today. #4-5 on Day 8 .)



(1) Acts 9:1-8a; Gal. 1:16a

(2) Acts 9:8b-21

(3) Galatians 1:17

(4) Galatians 1:18; Acts 9:22-23

(5) Galatians 1:21-24; Acts 9:30, 11:25

5. **Free and Filled.** A line from the Rascal Flatts song kept coming to me as I thought of Paul's conversion: "God blessed the broken road that led me straight to you, Yes, He did." Of course, this song is about finding romantic love, but the lyrics ring true when I thought of how God blessed the broken road to Damascus that Paul was on. Paul knew he was blessed when he said he was "set apart, called, graced" and given the privilege to preach the true Gospel. His road from Jerusalem to Damascus would always remind him of his brokenness and how God stopped Him, blinded him, and blessed him. What about you? Has God blessed the broken road you were on? I'm not asking for a romantic dream come true, but for the ultimate way any life can be true - to be stopped from heading toward Hell - the way of "anathema" - being cursed and cut off from God forever. Whether you came to Christ as a young child with no wicked path of rebellion behind you, you came to Christ later in life in a tender moment of acceptance, or you have quite a story of sin and rebellion in your B.C. days (Before Christ), the reality is we are sinners in need of the God who blesses because all roads without Him are broken. Pause to thank God for blessing the Damascus Road you were on that led you to Him. Pause to acknowledge that you - no matter how simple or complicated your life and testimony have been - could still be living a "former life" (Gal. 1:13) ...but God.

Lesson Two Day Eight

Memorize & Meditate

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|--|---|
| ☐ 1.  Pray... for wisdom | ☐ 3.  Simply Read Galatians 1:18-24 |
| ☐ 2.  Memorize/Meditate Gal. 1:8
write here AND on a Sticky note | ☐ 4.  Write the Word Galatians 1:18-24 |

Thinking Back...Galatians 1:15-17

1. **Remember & Relate:** At what point in Paul's life did God set him apart?
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2. **Thinking Theologically.** If God sets people apart before they are born, what does that teach you about who God is? How does knowing this help you understand God?
|
3. **What about Me?** Paul is such a bigger-than-life character. What about "regular" people like us? What does the Bible say about us being set apart, and what will that look like in our lives if it's true - that God does set us regular folks apart? Consider the following:
| Psalm 139:13-16
|
| Ephesians 2:4-10
|

Dwelling in the Word... Galatians 1:18-24

4. **Three Years Later.** (1:18) Complete question #4 on page 54.
| What does Paul say he was doing during these three years? (Read also Gal. 1:12) What do you think is the significance of this time being three years?
|
5. **Seeking Cephas.** (1:18-19) Cephas (Peter) was among the first disciples. He was with Jesus for three years. Peter preached the first sermons - at least 5 - and led the growth along with the other disciples. Considering Peter's role in the early church, why do you think Paul sought him out?
|

Lesson Two Day Eight

6. **Just James.** (1:19) Besides Cephas, Paul says he saw just James. Having spent three years with Jesus, imagine what these two – now brothers in Christ – must have talked about:

7. **Paul Makes His Case.** (1:19-22) The accusation was that Paul received his Gospel from the apostles in Jerusalem, which in itself isn't a bad thing, but that's not what happened, and Paul is making his case for the truth – a miraculous truth that gives him authority as an apostle. What case is Paul making? Why is this so important?

8. **Persecutor to Preacher.** (1:21-24) Imagine you live in the area of Judea Paul is referring to. What have you heard about this man? Word has been going around...some details are clear, others are not, but one is absolute. Describe in the first person – as if you are living in that time – what you are hearing and how you are thinking or feeling about this guy, Paul. Base your description on what Paul wrote in Galatians 1:21-24.

9. **Free and Filled.** As I was preparing this lesson and deciding which would be our memory verse, I went back and forth between Galatians 1:8 and 1:24, "And they glorified God because of me." On its own, this would be quite the bold – even prideful – statement. The context of this account makes all the difference. Why is Paul able to make this statement with not one hint of self-centered pride? Could this statement be true also of you today? Should it be true? Why or why not?

Lesson Two Day Nine

Memorize & Meditate

- ☐ 1. 🙏 **Pray...** for discernment
- ☐ 2. 🔥 **Memorize/Meditate** Gal. 1:8
write this verse in your best cursive
- ☐ 3. 📖 **Simply Read** Galatians 2:1-6
- ☐ 4. 📝 **Write the Word** Galatians 2:1-6

Thinking Back...Galatians 1:18-24

1. **Remember & Relate:** Think of how intensely driven and busy Paul's life was before meeting Christ on the road to Damascus. Then he went away for three years. All we know is that he went for three years, and it was somewhere in Arabia. We also know one more crucial detail. What is that detail, and how does that make all the difference between his life before and his life after that moment?

Dwelling in the Word... Galatians 2:1-6

2. **Ministry Buddies.** (2:1) (I introduced this question on Day Two, pg 44) Paul waited fourteen years before returning to Jerusalem, this time with buddies: Barnabas and Titus. Get to know these two men. How they met Paul (if noted), ups and downs they had, key characteristics, ethnicity, etc. Share what you found with your Bible study buddy. Tips for resources: BibleGateway.com; GotQuestions.org, BibleHub.com

BARNABAS

TITUS

Lesson Two Day Nine

3. **Test Case Titus.** (2:1-3) Why did Paul go up to Jerusalem after 14 years? What was his strategy? What was his concern?
4. **Foiled by False Brothers.** (2:4) How does Paul characterize the issue with the “false brothers” in this Jerusalem encounter? What does this tell you about the extent and impact of his ministry since his conversion 17 years earlier?
5. **Reverse Card Move by Paul.** (2:5-6) Describe Paul’s response to the false brothers’ attempt to thwart his mission. What is Paul focused on over and above any of these men’s plans?
6. **Closing Remarks.** (2:6) Consider the point Paul is making in verse six. How does this connect back to his comments in 1:10 and 1:16? What does this tell you about his priorities? How does this strengthen your priorities for God’s plans in your life?
7. **Free and Filled.** Re-read 2:5b. What is the central idea of Paul’s mission? What is the enemy of that mission? Think about how having this kind of undistracted focus might look in your life...with your family? At work? In your church? Your social life, retirement plans? Prayerfully consider what God is teaching you in this passage and how you can live out being truly free and filled with His Spirit today with this in mind:

Lesson Two Day Ten

Memorize & Meditate

□ 1.  Pray...for your Grace Group

□ 2.  Memorize/Meditate Gal. 1:8
write from memory

...Create and Share...

"He gave himself to deliver us from the present evil age..."

"I'm astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him..."

"Preach another gospel? You may as well be cursed!"

"Am I trying to please man? No!"

"I was a violent persecutor!"

"But God...He set me apart and called me by His grace."

"And they were glorifying God because of me."

"They spied out our freedom...we did not yield, not even for a moment!"

"So that the truth of the gospel might be preserved."

Sometimes, I can forget that the words in the Bible were spoken or written by men - inspired by the Holy Spirit, yes! True holy Scripture, thank God! And yet, also, in God's kindness and grace, He gave that inspiration to *"σὰρξ καὶ αἷμα"* - flesh and blood men. Men, like Paul, who could write with total humility,
"And they were glorifying God because of me."

I wept the first time I read those words. I'm tearing up again as I write this now. What a mission! Aim for God's glory and share mystically in God's handiwork.

Here we are at the beginning of our time together, dwelling in the Word. This is the perfect time to set out together with a single-minded mission...to prayerfully, humbly, and expectantly be used by God so that they might glorify him because of us.

Write a letter to your future self. A letter you will read once you've finished this study when it's time to close this notebook and begin a new chapter - literally. You'll have finished the six chapters, taken notes, learned, grown, thought, and reconsidered your thoughts. Write a letter to yourself that you will open in 10 weeks to read the prayerful heart of someone who wants more than anything to "not yield - not even for a moment" to anyone twisting Scriptures, preaching another gospel, spying on your freedom in Christ. Write a letter and seal it in an envelope with prayer asking God to grow in you a brave and bold heart like Paul's and a passion to fulfil with humility and focus what you have been set apart and called to do by His grace.

There's a page on the back for you to use, or maybe you have stationery that inspires and delights you. Use whichever is best for you. When we meet again for our Grace Groups, you can share some ideas and thoughts, and we can all pray for one another. Then, at our final time together, we can read - if you'd like to - and hear one another's letters.





