

FINDING GRACE

IN A
DEMANDING WORLD



A Study of the Book of Galatians

by Sue LeBoutillier

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Published by:

Calvary Chapel — Ontario, Oregon

❧ *Finding Grace* ❧ *Galatians*

What is *Grace* and how do we know when we *find* it?

If I asked you to define *grace* — not a Bible definition — just a life definition — you might mention some sort of *refinement* or sophisticated *elegance*. You might think back to a *grace-period*, which kept you from a service charge or fine. Maybe you would say it means *cutting some slack*, as in holding the rules loosely.

Those are all cultural uses of the word *grace*, but what does the Bible mean when It speaks of *grace*? What did John mean when he said...

From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. John 1:16 (NIV)

Those are questions we hope to answer since Galatians can be neatly organized into three groups:

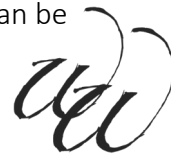
- How do we find grace?
- How do we understand grace?
- How do we live in grace?

So, welcome to our Women of the Word Bible Study! Wherever you are, and whoever you're studying with, I pray that the Lord will richly bless you as you dig into the book of Galatians in your quest to ***Find Grace!***

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*The best translation of the Bible to use is the one you understand the most easily—and using more than one translation can be a great aid to study! This study guide was created using the ESV (English Standard Version), which may be a helpful tool as you work through your study.



Introduction — Finding Grace

This page is a guide for taking notes during the Introductory Teaching on Galatians.

The story of the Churches in Galatia begins in the book of _____.

The Holy Spirit told the Church in Antioch to set apart _____ and _____ for the work of the Gospel.

- Righteousness through **the Law** is _____
- Righteousness through **faith** is _____

When we study the Bible, it can be very helpful to ask three questions:

- What does it _____?
- What does it _____?
- What does it mean _____?

Galatians 1:6-7

6) I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—

7) not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

Scripture for Further Study:

John 1:12

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Titus 3:5-6

Galatians Chapter 1

Are you ready to begin your personal study through the book of Galatians this week? Let's get started!

This Study Guide was written in a five-day-a-week format. You don't *have* to do it in five days, but many women like the structure of a small chunk every day. Each lesson is designed to take as few as 15 minutes or as long as you would care to linger over the passages. You'll receive the greatest benefit if you do each week's lesson independently, and then participate in the group time of teaching and discussion with others.

As an added bonus and learning strategy, we'll also write out the entire book of Galatians by hand, bit-by-bit. It won't take very long each day, and I know you'll be blessed by the process of slowing down to actually write each word. So, grab yourself something to write in — anything will do, a lovely new journal or a 59 cent notebook. Just make sure you have enough room for all 149 verses.

Each day, you will see the words **READ & WRITE**, followed by a passage.

- First — Read those verses from your Bible. (If you possible can, read them aloud with gusto!)
- Next — Write them in your journal.
- Then — Come back to this Study Guide and read through the questions and consider what you have read by jotting down your answers. This will help you gather your thoughts for discussion of the passage when you share with your group.

And, finally, but most importantly, before you even read the passage each day, I want to encourage you to pray. Just simply and humbly, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and teach you; to help you understand anything that is difficult AND help you to apply God's Word to your life.

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

— John 17:17

Day 1:

READ & WRITE Galatians 1:1-5.

Remember, only about a year had passed since Paul first shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people of Galatia.

- What was the first point he made in this letter about his own life and calling?

- What phrase did Paul use in **v.2** to let the Galatians know he wasn't sending this letter independently? Why do you think he did that?

In your journal, circle the words *grace* and *peace* in **v.3**. *Peace* with God is a yearning in the heart of every human — it's our remedy for anxiety and fear. *Grace* is the means for us to have *peace* with God.

- Explain the great historical event described in these verses that makes *peace* possible through *grace*:

We can tell that Paul cared deeply for these people. He could have preached his message and left them to make up their minds. But he circled around to make sure that his message had found fertile soil in their hearts and was growing and flourishing.

We can sum it up by saying the Apostle's motives were sincere, first on preaching the gospel and then in protecting the message (**v.10**).

Consider your own motives today. If you were allowed to choose between *only* two categories to describe you, would it be 'to impress people', or 'to please God'? What percentage of your activities would each category receive?

Day 2:

✎ READ& WRITE Galatians 1:6-9.

Go back to your journal and put a “D” over three important words: *deserting, different, distort*.

- Using those three words in opposite order, compose an explanation of the trouble that came upon the Churches in Galatia after Paul left.

Circle the phrase, ‘*grace of Christ*’ in v.6. This phrase is a short explanation of the real Good News — the real Gospel based on *grace*. The Galatians had *found grace* in Paul’s message before trouble came.

- What unlikely event did Paul mention in v.8 to show how closely the original message of *grace* should be guarded?

- What did he wish upon anyone who brought a message contrary to the original message of the *grace of Christ* (v.8-9)?

Already, Paul’s letter had a confrontational tone. Why do you think he wrote this way? Do you think it’s appropriate, or out of line?

Day 3:

📖 READ & WRITE Galatians 1:10-14.

We already pointed out that Paul was not a man pleaser, but rather a true servant of Christ — seeking the approval of God. Out of love for his friends, he thought it important to review his own personal history of *finding grace* in God.

- From whom did he receive the Gospel message (v.12)?
- What was the method by which he received it (v.12)?
- How did Paul describe his former life in Judaism and his position toward the Church of God (v.13)?
- Why do you think he harbored such hatred toward God's Church to want to destroy it?
- How successful was he in those violent endeavors (v.14)?

What do you think was his reasoning for bringing up his dark personal history at the beginning of this letter?

Day 4:

✞ READ & WRITE **Galatians 1:15-17**.

Double underline the first three words that you wrote today. Write the word “*God*” over the pronoun “*he*”. Those three small words signal a monumental change in Paul’s life.

As Paul explained the transformation that happened to him in **v.15-16**, he used phrases that characterize what he knew to be true about himself and his relationship to God. Look for them and list them here:

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

If you are a Christian, you can also use those phrases to characterize what *you* know to be true about your relationship to God.

Read each of them again — one at a time — and ask yourself if you can personally relate to those statements?

- A. Do I believe that God *set me apart before I was born*?

Read and process **Ephesians 1:4**.

- B. Do I believe that God *called me by His grace*?

Read and process **2 Timothy 1:9**.

- C. Do I believe that it pleased God to *reveal His Son in me*?

Read and process **2 Corinthians 4:10**.

Paul’s life changed significantly after *finding grace*. While you may not have experienced as radical of a change as Paul, if you are born of the Spirit of God, then God’s grace has definitely changed you!

Day 5:

READ & WRITE Galatians 1:18-24.

As chapter one closes, Paul begins to outline how God led him through his early days, travels and experiences. Let's use some good old fashioned fill-in-the-blanks to help us learn from his timeline.

But when God...called me by his grace...that I might preach him among the Gentiles...

V.16b *I did not immediately consult with _____*

V.17a *Nor did I go up to _____ to those who were _____*

V.17b *But I went away into _____ and returned again to _____.*

V.18a *Then after _____ years, I went up to _____.*

That may seem like an exercise in detail, but if Paul found it necessary to retrace his journey, we can learn from it as well.

- If he *didn't consult any man* or receive his theology from the Church (which he'd been murdering), then how did he receive his information, message and world view? (**v.12**)
- Why do you think God may have kept Paul separated from the Church in Jerusalem for a season after his conversion?
- How do you think that served him in his ministry to the Gentiles?
- How did other believers respond, who heard about Paul's conversion and ministry? (**v.22-24**)

How has God used some of the circumstances of your own journey for His purposes?

Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. If someone asked you why the Apostle Paul's letters to Churches were significant enough to be part of our Bible, what would you say?
2. Do you have anyone in your life sharing confusing ideas with you right now that might even be a contrary Gospel? Have you ever experienced that? What effect does/did it have on you?
3. How can you prepare to respond correctly the next time you hear the Gospel of grace distorted?
4. Some may argue that the Gospel changes along with the years and we would be wise to accept modern adaptations of its message. What do you say to that? What do you think Paul would say to that?
5. The Apostle Paul had a clear sense of his journey and his calling. How clearly do you see what God has called you to do at this season of your life?
6. What type of change in your routine of life do you want to make this week to better reflect what God has called you to do in His Kingdom?

Galatians Chapter 2

How are you doing with writing out your verses each day? Are you right on target? Do you need to *catch-up* a little? I just want to encourage you that we haven't gotten all that far into the book of Galatians, so if you do need to catch up, you can easily get that accomplished!

We subtitled the first two chapters of Galatians **Finding Grace** and now we continue to learn more details of Paul's personal journey of *finding the grace of Christ*. We also learn how Paul *protected* the delicate message of grace in the midst of challenges to that truth.

Paul freely shared his before and after story, which should cause us to reflect on our own spiritual journeys! Maybe *you* weren't entrenched in a demanding religious system before you found the grace of Christ. Still, humans are incurably religious and we're all drawn to anything that makes us feel like we've cleaned ourselves up, or done something to be worthy of God's attention.

Even the nature of this world is demanding. To the Colossians, Paul called it, "***the basic principles of this world.***" **Colossians 2:8 (NIV)** . It means that people love to rely on their own effort, rites, traditions and principles. Those things can give us a false sense of accomplishment! *Finding grace* means setting that all aside and knowing that Jesus gets all the credit for our worthiness to gain access to God.

In chapter one, Paul made it clear that he learned the Gospel of grace directly from God. So, was it the same Gospel that the other Apostles, who physically walked with Jesus, shared — or had two Gospels developed? That's what we'll discover in chapter two, where Paul explained that indeed their messages were united!

We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.

— Galatians 2:16

Day 1:

✞ READ & WRITE **Galatians 2:1-5**.

Paul continues detailing his history and experience from chapter one:

- After 14 years, where did he go?
- Whom did he take along?
- Why did he head there?
- What interesting thing do you find out about Titus in **v.3**?
- In what way do you think it was intentional on Paul's part to bring a Greek Christian into the meeting with the Church leaders?

We find, in **v.9**, that Paul was referring to James, Peter, and John as *'those who seemed influential'* — let's call them **Team Grace**. Then there were *'false brothers'* — let's call them **Team Effort**. Explain what their positions seemed to be on Titus not being circumcised:

Team Grace:

Team Effort:

- Why did Paul *not give in to Team Effort for a moment*?
- What would have been lost if he had given in to them?

In your journal, add quotation marks around the phrase in **v.5**, *"truth of the gospel"*.

Day 2:

✞ READ & WRITE Galatians 2:6-10.

I wonder if those troublers in Galatia had implied that their *message of effort* was consistent with what the leaders in Jerusalem had been teaching all along. That may be why Paul set the record straight, so they would know that those leaders *added* _____ (v.6) to his message.

The outcome of the meeting was: One Gospel! One message! One team!

- Titus was accepted just as he was — no circumcision necessary.
- Paul’s Gospel was accepted as it was — no changes necessary.

In fact, we learn from these verses that everyone agreed:

- Paul had been entrusted with the Gospel to the _____, meaning the Gentiles.
- While Peter had been entrusted with the Gospel to the _____, meaning the Jews.

Paul stood firm and everyone won in the end — including *we* who are reading this letter!

- Do you find it difficult to stand firm on issues you know are true?
- Have you ever given in and compromised on an issue just to *keep everyone happy*?

Let’s prepare right now for that possibility. You marked “*Truth of the Gospel*” yesterday in your journal. Make a list of at least four truths of the Gospel that you will not compromise on:

-
-
-
-

Day 3:

✞ READ & WRITE Galatians 2:11-13.

Apparently, some time after these events, Peter joined Paul in Antioch. Then other men from Jerusalem visited. Unlike Paul, Peter struggled to stand firm in his actions when influenced by others:

- **Before** their arrival, Peter would eat with _____.
- **After** their arrival he drew back and _____ himself.
- **The reason** for his change in behavior was that he feared the _____ party.

Have you ever found yourself adjusting your actions:

- To meet people's expectations?
- To prove to someone how spiritual you are?
- Because you were afraid of someone's disapproval?

What have you learned from these situations?

- In Peter's case, what group acted hypocritically along with him?
- What individual was surprisingly influenced (v.13)?

We totally underestimate how influential our actions can be — both positive and negative. Do you think Peter had a greater responsibility for his actions since he was a leader, or do you think all are equal?

Make a short list of who would be affected by your actions right now at this point in your life. Who is watching how you respond?

What do these verses teach us about the fragile reality of continuing to walk in grace once we have found grace?

Day 4:

✞ READ & WRITE Galatians 2:14-17.

In your journal, put quotes around the phrase, *'the truth of the gospel'*, just like you did in v.5. Then find a red and green colored pencil. Use the red one to mark words and phrases like *law, works of the law*. Mark words and phrases like *faith, faith in Jesus, justified by faith* with your green pencil. We will continue to mark these in the rest of the book to help us visually see the tension between Law and faith, as we study.

There is a self-definition of *'truth of the gospel'* in v.16. It goes like this:

We also have _____ in Christ Jesus, in order to be
_____ by _____ in Christ and
not by _____ of the _____.

That's a pretty good statement, but to appreciate it, you need to understand the word *justified* or *justification*.

- Look up that word in a Bible dictionary and write the definition here:

- Now, take some time to think of a metaphor, an illustration or story that you could use to explain to a child or to someone who has never heard the Word. (You may want to read **Romans 3:21-24** while you are thinking.) Write it out to share with your group:

Justification is not simply *forgiveness*, because a person could be forgiven and then go out and sin and become guilty. Once you have been *justified by faith* you can never be held guilty before God.² — Warren Wiersbe

Day 5:

✞ READ & WRITE Galatians 2:18-21.

Finding Grace is personal — Paul found it, Peter, James and John found it. In yesterday's passage, Paul lumped them all together when he said, "***we know***" a person is not justified by their efforts but by God's grace.

Go back to your journal and double underline all of the personal pronouns "I". Paul, not only personally *found grace*, but he then became a *carrier of grace*.

Look at the before and after snapshot of Paul:

V.19: *I died to the _____ that I might live to _____.*

How did that death take place?

V.20: *I have been _____ with Christ ... Christ _____ in me.*

The Law was his identity in the *before* snapshot.

Jesus Christ is his identity in the *after* snapshot.

What is your identity? It's so easy to say, *Jesus! Jesus is my identity!* But is He? Or do you find yourself trying to get God's favorable attention by...

- praying more or praying better?
- giving more or helping more people?
- sharing better or teaching Sunday School?
- never missing a Church or communion service?

Those are all noble things and important activities in our Christian life. But if our motivation is to win our way into God's favor or into Heaven, we've not only missed the mark, we've nullified the grace of God toward us, to justify us while we were yet sinners.

In what areas are you, or were you, bound in some type of *effort* on your part to win God's approval?

Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Like the *false brothers* in Jerusalem, some Christians want to impose rules on others. What types of rules or requirements have you been told you must keep in order to secure your salvation?
2. This chapter also showed us that a *true brother* can sometimes fall into error (like Peter's hypocritical actions). Do you think it's acceptable to point out an error like this to a fellow Christian? How would you do that?
3. What if YOU were the one, who was acting inconsistently to try to fit in with a particular group? What type of gentle correction would make the best impact on you?
4. How would you respond to someone who insisted that you must be water baptized to be saved, and quoted this Scripture: Mark 16:16a, "***Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.***"
5. What did Paul mean when he said, "***I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live?***" It's obviously not literal, so what did he mean?
6. How can you be a *carrier of grace*?

Galatians Chapter 3

We've often gone Huckleberry picking in the Idaho mountains on our camping trips. It's always such a peaceful afternoon. What's not to love about bringing a pail of berries back to your campsite for huckleberry pancakes in the morning? If you hope to find huckleberries, it's important to *understand* where huckleberry plants grow — because they don't grow all over the state — they require a specific habitat.

The same thing is true for Biblical grace. You have to *understand* what grace looks like and where to find it. That is what the next two chapters are all about — *understanding grace!*

The Apostle Paul shared his personal history of *finding grace* and now we come to the details, the theological part of the book, the nuts and bolts of understanding God's grace and to whom it is available.

In chapters 1-2, Paul patiently and clearly defended his Apostolic ministry, history and experiences. Beginning with chapter 3, diplomacy screeches to a halt. So serious would be the damage caused by the Judaizers that Paul must have felt it was time to shock his friends into listening.

Starting today, we'll refer to those who stirred up trouble in the Galatian churches by the name — **Judaizers** — meaning those who taught that a person must become like a Jew and hold to the teachings of Moses in order to become acceptable to God. The most obvious external sign of becoming a son of Abraham was circumcision.

Get out those colored pencils again. Each day, mark in your journal the words/phrases listed in these categories in their appropriate color:

GREEN

Receive the Spirit
Hearing with Faith
Justified by Faith
Believed God

Spirit
Faith
Justified
Blessed

RED

Works of the law
Flesh
Law

Day 1:

✞ READ & WRITE Galatians 3:1-5.

I know what it's like to be incredulous, frustrated and broken-hearted, all at the same time — maybe you do too. When someone we love experiences a lapse of judgment, the result is often tragic and we shake our head thinking, *'It didn't have to be that way.'*

Paul was irritated at the Judaizers; but also super frustrated that his friends had so quickly embraced a damaging and demanding teaching, while setting aside his message of grace. That message taught that it was God's intention to make one large family of those who were willing to relate to Him through **faith**! All were welcome in this family and the key was the Spirit of His Son. Let's look at Paul's logic...

v.2 *"Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the _____?"*

v.3 *"... are you now being perfected by the _____?"*

v.5 *"Does He who supplies the Spirit...do so by _____ of the _____ or by _____ with _____?"*

The J.B. Phillips translation begins, *"Oh you dear idiots of Galatia... surely you can't be so idiotic!"* Paul begged them to see they had lost all reason by thinking they needed to comply with Jewish regulations.

- What does **v.5** tell us they had already experienced among themselves when they were resting in faith?

It makes us wonder what more they hoped to achieve. But being persuaded by others isn't always about reason, is it? Read **Colossians 2:8**. List some hollow and deceptive philosophies of the world that could be classified as *bewitching*:

Day 2: _____

✞ READ & WRITE Galatians 3:6-14.

In addition to your red and green markings suggested on p.22, put an "A" over *Abraham*, a "B" over *Blessed*, and a "C" over *curse/cursed*.

V.14 is a key passage to understanding grace:

*"so that ... the blessing of _____ might come to the _____,
so that we might receive the promised Spirit through _____."*

The problem at hand was people suggesting a misguided throwback to God's covenant with Abraham. The reasoning went like this: *If you truly want to be part of God's people, you need to participate in the circumcision given to Abraham.*

The truth is that God's unfolding plan of redemption includes a large family that would relate to Him **through faith**. God never intended His Kingdom family to relate to Him through their own effort.

- What did Abraham do that caused God to place him in the *righteous* category (v.6)?
- What do all who believe by faith have in common with Abraham?
V.7—
V.9—
- Conversely, all who rely on works of the law are under a _____.
- According to v.13, how does Christ save people from the *curse* of the Law?

List three ways by which you are *blessed* through your faith in Christ:

Day 3:

📖 READ & WRITE **Galatians 3:15-18**.

Understanding grace means understanding the *truth of the Gospel* — which is the fact that Christ absorbed the curse of the Law for us and, as we put our faith in what He did, we no longer bear the penalty.

Today's verses explain what the Law didn't do —

— it didn't annul the promise of God.

Tomorrow's verses explain what the Law does do —

— it highlights the promise of God and the coming Messiah.

The Revised Standard Version uses *will* in place of *covenant* — ***“No one annuls even a man's will, or adds to it, once it has been ratified.”***

What did Paul point out about wills or promises in **v.15**? — ***“No one _____ it or _____ to it once it has been ratified.”*** Once a will is signed — it's locked in — no changes are made.

- What two parties was the promise or will between (**v.16**)?
- In **v.17** Paul says the *Law* came _____ years after the will. Since wills cannot be changed (annulled), what effect did the Law have on the promises given to Abraham?
- Based on all of this, explain in one sentence why the *Law* can't make any change in what has been promised to us by the covenant of grace:

“What, then, was the purpose of the law?” That is a good question!
We will continue our investigation tomorrow...stay tuned...

Day 4:

📖 READ & WRITE **Galatians 3:19-22**.

What was the beneficial purpose of the Law?

- To show us God's righteous character.
- To prove to us that we are sinners.

- In **v.19**, we learn that the Law was added to until Who came?
- Who exactly is this referring to?
- What would He do that would satisfy the Law?
(check out **Galatians 3:13-14** and **Matthew 5:17**.)

We can clearly see that the Law *needs* to be satisfied, but it's not our job to do it, because we don't have the ability.

Have you ever pondered the fact that every religion created by man has some sort of *effort* or *law* as its centerpiece? The main point is always: '*do good stuff*', '*be a good person*', '*follow the list of rules*'.

- How would you explain these differences to someone who asked why you didn't think *being good* was how you got to Heaven?
- How do you plan to explain this to your children?

Day 5:

✞ READ & WRITE Galatians 3:23-29.

There are three similar phrases we should notice in today's verses: *before faith came*, *until the coming faith*, and *now that faith has come*.

- What do you think those phrases refer to?

Something was put in charge of us until that time.

- Who/what was our guardian until faith?

Skip ahead and read **Galatians 5:18**.

- Who is put in charge to lead us *after* faith?

Amazing! God put the Law in charge to lead us to Jesus, and put His Spirit in charge after we accept Jesus. Isn't it crazy to think of someone wanting to go backward to put the Law *in charge*? Foolish, but perhaps tempting.

- Under what circumstances might a person find it easier in their life to let the Law be in charge rather than the Spirit?

- Have you ever been tempted to just *put the Law in charge* so you didn't need to rely upon God's Spirit to lead you? In what way?

Remember, God is interested in one large family, who relates to Him through faith. List the social dividing lines given in **v.28**, and any others that come to mind, showing that faith is open to all:

Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Besides singing the children's song **Father Abraham**, do you think many modern Christians consider themselves *sons of Abraham*?
2. How would you answer someone who quoted **Galatians 3:10b** and stopped at: "*Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them*"?
3. Why do you think so many people STILL insist that they will get to Heaven by being good or at least making sure that they do more good things than bad things?
4. As we consider the man-made religions that abound in our culture, how many of them promote a special father/child type relationship with God? Explain your answer.
5. Reviewing **Colossians 2:8**, what can you do in your family to obey this passage and be proactive against these intruders?

He left His Father's throne above, so free,
so infinite His grace, emptied himself of all but love,
and bleed for Adam's helpless race³
— Charles Wesley

Galatians Chapter 4

Ladies, if we are on the precipice of a great revival in our country, we desperately need to be led by the Spirit of God in these days, rather than led by the Law of God. Because, as Paul said, ***by the works of the law, no one will be justified. (2:16)***

The language of the Spirit is *grace*. Grace means *getting something we don't deserve!* Since grace is the language of faith, we need to understand grace. This will be our second week in the middle section of Galatians, which we subtitled *Understanding Grace*.

Last week, Paul explained that the Law was given as a good and proper guide to understanding the holiness of God *before* Christ came. But *after* Christ came, our means to understand the holiness of God is through His Spirit.

The Law was the centerpiece of the first Covenant that God made with His people on Mount Sinai and the Spirit is the centerpiece of the new Covenant made through Christ!

We will resume the illustration of a *will*, which names *'heirs' to the promised inheritance*.

As you write in your journal, continue to mark the same words from last week's list with either red or green. In addition, in **v.1-7**, put a small case 'h' over the juvenile tense of heir: *child, slave, children*; and a capital 'H' over the mature tense: *heir, sons* (but not references to God's Son — just the human son in the illustration).

You shall remember that you were
a slave in the land of Egypt,
and the LORD your God redeemed you.
— Deuteronomy 15:15

Day 1:

✎ READ & WRITE **Galatians 4:1-7**.

Go back to the final four words of the previous chapter and write them here: _____.

In agreement with their culture, Paul wrote that when a young boy (h), who was to someday inherit the whole estate through a will, was still a child (h), he would be treated similar to a _____ (h) and put under the authority of _____ and _____ until his father determined his maturity (H) and readiness for a different relationship.

This illustration is meant to help us understand the promise that God has given us to inherit. The comparison to our own spiritual relationship starts in **v.3**, with the words *In the same way...* Let's process this:

Gal. 3:26b: "you are all _____ (H) through _____"

Gal. 3:29b: " _____ (H) according to _____"

Before that time, while we were like a child (h), **Gal. 3:24a** "the _____ was our guardian until _____ came" But now that we are

sons of God (H) **Gal. 4:7a** "you are no longer a _____ (h)"

and no longer under the guardianship of the Law, instead **Gal. 4:6**

"God sent the _____ of his son into our hearts crying

_____ ", which shows a relationship of faith and inti-

macy granted by the Spirit of Jesus.

Jesus used similar intimate language. Read **Mark 14:36**, and explain what you see in the relationship Jesus had with His Father:

Day 2:

✞ READ & WRITE Galatians 4:8-14.

As Paul used the illustration of human relationships, we noted two experiences — *slavery* or *sonship* (where a slave described a juvenile child). No hybrid seems to exist. The Gospel of grace that Paul shared with them elevated a *slave* to a *son*.

- But now, after they had embraced the Gospel and enjoyed God's Spirit within them, what were they returning to (v.9)?

- What specific example of observing the Law did Paul mention in v.10?

- What do you think those events were originally intended to point toward?

- Instead of becoming *like the Jews*, in v.12, Paul wants them to become as _____. Explain what it would have looked like for them to become like Paul.

- If a modern Christian was caught on a 'performance track with God', what would it look like for that person to become like Paul?

Day 3:

📖 READ & WRITE Galatians 4:15-20.

- List anything you see in v.12-15 that Paul wrote to describe the warm and profitable relationship he and the brothers enjoyed when they first met.

We often use the phrase, *'those were the days'*. Do you get the sense that Paul was drawing on the warmth of those days to remind them how much he cared for them, how dear they were, what life was like when they first received the Gospel of grace?

The change came in v.16, *Have I then become your _____ by telling you the truth?* Ouch! It's a natural reaction to resist or ignore the person who says what we don't want to hear. Maybe you've said that to one of your children, *'I'm not the enemy here'*. I think somehow that's what Paul was feeling.

- Who was the *enemy*?
- Who was the enemy trying to separate? And for what purpose?

Zealous people can be convincing, but they don't always speak truth. There is a source for truth that protects us against false teaching. What do you learn from **John 14:26** and **John 16:13**?

Day 4: _____

✞ READ & WRITE Galatians 4:21-26.

We all love a good story. Jesus told so many stories, where one thing represented something else that held a deeper meaning. Paul was wise to use a story in this passage. The people he was talking about were real historical figures, but he clarified in **v.24**, *this may be interpreted allegorically*. Abraham, the two wives, and their two sons represent spiritual realities. Those relationships can teach us important lessons.

Abraham had two sons (v.22-23): *One by a _____ woman; and one by a _____ woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the _____, while the son of the free woman was born through _____.*

You might remember that there was nothing ordinary about Abraham and Sarah producing Isaac. It was quite impossible, in their human strength and condition, to give birth to this son.

Since this family represents **two Covenants** (v.24), let's make a chart of all of these relationships:

	OLD COVENANT	NEW COVENANT
Mother's name	_____	_____
Relationship to Abraham	_____	_____
Son's name	_____	_____
Method of birth	_____	_____
Relational Reality	_____ LAW _____	_____ GRACE _____
Spiritual Reality	_____ FLESH _____	_____ SPIRIT _____

Circle which wife came first, then circle which son came first.

God did not begin with the power of the Law,
He began with the Promise, with Grace and the Spirit.
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Day 5: _____

✞ READ & WRITE Galatians 4:27-31.

Are you doing okay? These chapters have been technically dense, but Paul was writing to people with a firm grasp on their national history. I think they were following him well. His argument came to a conclusion in (v.28), ***Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of _____***. As opposed to children of the _____.

- How did the son born of the flesh respond to the son born according to the Spirit (v.29)?
- Paul said, '***so also it is now.***' What do you think that meant?

Remember the false brothers were teaching the believers to hold to the teachings of the Law of Moses in order to be acceptable to God.

- That would be like aligning themselves with which wife/son combo?
- But what did the Scripture itself say to do with the slave woman and her son (v.30)?
- As believers, by faith in Jesus, who are WE children of?

It all makes so much sense, and it's wonderful to see how God uses even failures, even the impatience and lack of faith displayed by Abraham and Sarah, to minister the deep truths of the Gospel to us.

Hagar versus Sarah = Law versus Grace
Ishmael versus Isaac = Flesh versus Spirit

This highlights the position of all who identify with Isaac — both the pain of persecution and the privilege of inheritance.

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Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. What are some of the *weak and worthless elementary principles of the world* that non-Christians live by?
2. What effect do these principles have on mental and emotional health? List a couple of specifics:
3. Many people believe in Karma: *You get what you deserve*. If I am good—I deserve good; if I am bad—I deserve bad. It seems to be at the heart of most major religions. How would you refute this philosophy using the principles of grace?
4. After experiencing salvation, why do some Christians return to their former habits and ways of thinking?
5. According to **Romans 8:16**, what is one thing the Spirit of God helps us to know, understand, and remember?
6. What effect does an understanding of grace have on mental and emotional health? List a couple of specifics:

Galatians Chapter 5

To me, chapters 5 & 6 are the hot fudge sauce on the sundae. We've titled this section, "*Living in Grace*" — just like an ice cream sundae needs the foundation of ice cream for the fudge sauce to make sense, these chapters depend on the presupposition that you have *found grace* and you *understand grace*, in order to enjoy *living in grace*!

Verse 1 is the connector. It almost belongs more with chapter four than chapter five, but like any good bridge, it's footing on both sides is equally important. Let's read it here:

*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore,
and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*

Those chapter four references to slavery were uncomfortable: *slave woman, children for slavery, cast out the slave women*. But I hope the columns in the chart on p.34 were helpful to see how the terms relate to each other. Christ has come to set us free from the grip of the left column so that we can embrace the freedom in the right column. In summary — don't revert back to the left column!

This week, we'll mark our red/green words/phrases again:

GREEN

Walk by the Spirit *Grace*
Through the Spirit *Spirit*
Desires of the Spirit *Faith*
Led by the Spirit *Love*
Fruit of the Spirit
Live by the Spirit
Keep in step with the Spirit

RED

Law
Works of the law
Under the law
Desires of the flesh
Works of the flesh

You were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh. But through love serve one another.

— Galatians 5:13

Day 1:

🌀 READ & WRITE **Galatians 5:1-6**.

Two more things to mark in your journal:

— Put a sunrise over the words *free and freedom* 

— Put chains over the words *slavery and circumcision*.



Since, by grace, we've been freed from both the bondage to sin we were born with, and from the burden of the Law which is impossible to satisfy, Paul says —STAY that way! Do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.

However, we *are* under a yoke. Read **Matthew 11:29-30**.

- Write **v.30**. Circle the words that describe the yoke of Jesus.

Circle the yoke you prefer: '*easy and light*' or '*keep the whole law*'

- In **v.4**, what actions/ambitions would cause a person to be *severed from Christ*?
- Write out the 4-word phrase Paul used at the end of that sentence:
- What caused this falling away?
- What do people sometimes believe is necessary to make themselves acceptable to God?

Now, mentally substitute that for *circumcision*, as you read those verses again. Fascinating, isn't it! Since what we *do* has no value, what is the only thing that counts, the only thing of value (**v. 6**)?

Day 2:

READ & WRITE Galatians 5:7-12.

Paul was fond of illustrations, and he packed a couple of good ones in these verses — running and leavening.

- How well was the race going at first (v.7)?

Apparently, it was due to a *persuasion* that the runner was hindered.

- Have you ever caved to *persuasion* from others that caused you to lose steam in your race? Did you begin to focus on external rules and rely more on your own ability to live a good Christian life? Explain.

- Explain how Paul compared *persuasion* and *leaven* in v.9.

- Compare v.11 with 4:29. Why did Paul say he would not have been persecuted if he was still preaching circumcision and obligation to the Law?

Maybe you've noticed how easily we are influenced by others — even in ordinary things like diets, school choices, gardening, or fashion. If a few friends start doing something, it can spread pretty quickly.

- In what area do you want to be a positive influence on others to *stay the course* of grace by running a good race?

Day 3:

🔗 READ & WRITE **Galatians 5:13-15**.

For the second time in this chapter, Paul referenced *freedom*. Mark that word with a sunrise, and do your red/green markings too.

- Once we place our faith in Christ, from what are we now free?

- What might become a temptation to a Christian as they walk in this freedom (v.13)?

- Rather than indulging ourselves, Paul exhorts us to focus *outward* and do what (v.13)?

We know that *living in grace* means we cannot gain acceptance by keeping the Law. But once we have gained acceptance through faith in Christ — we **will** keep the Law. Read **Matthew 22:38-40**.

- Explain how the Spirit within will drive us to keep the Law in relation to those around us.

Unfortunately, it was implied that the current state of the Church wasn't one of love and humility but rather of what in v.15?

...stay tuned for the GOOD NEWS tomorrow!

Day 4: _____

✞ READ & WRITE Galatians 5:16-21.

What a wonderful prescription for life: **Walk by the Spirit!** It sounds so simple, doesn't it? And, it *would* be if we didn't still have those desires of the flesh. Be sure you marked all of your red and green words/phrases.

- Note the words *against* and *opposed* in v.17. From v.16-17, what two types of desires are opposed to each other?

Paul gave us two verbs to help us understand how the Spirit can win in that opposing struggle:

- In v.16, “But I say, _____ by the Spirit”
- In v.18, “But if you are _____ by the Spirit”

When we're willingly *led by the Spirit* and God writes HIS Law upon our hearts, the acts of the sinful nature become obvious—we call it our *conscience*. We know when we're engaging in the desires of our flesh. It's not a lack of *information* that causes us to sin—it is a lack of *relationship* with the Spirit of God — a lack of being led by the Spirit.

List the actions from v.19-21 into the columns you feel they belong:

Sensual Sins

Superstitious Sins

Social Sins

It's shocking and humbling to list the appetites of our old nature. We'd rather not think about it, but it's good for us to remember that they linger, asking for us to *walk* in them or be *led* by them.

- How does our freedom in Christ provide a way to say *no* to them?

Day 5:

✎ READ & WRITE Galatians 5:22-26.

Today's passage includes a favorite — *The Fruit of the Spirit*. Maybe you've memorized the *Fruit of the Spirit*, maybe you've taught it in Sunday School, or maybe it's new territory for you. It doesn't matter because we'll always learn something new.

Let's observe from the text, the two opposing ideas Paul set out:

— V.19: "*The _____ of the flesh*"

— V.22: "*The _____ of the Spirit*"

Think about those underlined descriptions: *works* contrasted with *fruit*.

- How would you describe the difference between those two methods of producing something?

I have to confess that, when I taught the **Fruit of the Spirit** children's curriculum in the early '90s, I was probably guilty of teaching the lessons in a *'this is how we should act'* method! *'Children, let's all make sure we are kind, because the fruit of the Spirit is kindness'!*

There's nothing wrong with encouraging kindness—But THIS passage is expressing the *results* that can be expected depending on WHO is *in the lead* inside a person's heart—their sinful flesh, or the Spirit of Jesus.

- If a Christian wants to bear this type of fruit, what is required according to v.24?
- What do you think it means to not only be led by the Spirit, but to *keep in step* with the Spirit?

Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Do you think the general view of Christianity today could be characterized by freedom? Why or why not?
2. How do you think the traits of *biting and devouring one another* flourish more in a legalistic religious setting?
3. Do you think it's ever possible for the work of the flesh to copy or to counterfeit the fruit of the Spirit?
4. Have you known a person whom you didn't think was a Christian, but yet was still loving, patient or kind? Does the presence of those traits prove their faith?
5. If *those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires (v.24)*, then why do we sometimes see the works of the flesh come out in Christians?
6. What are some things a gardener would expect from a fruit tree over time, and what would she do to encourage that?

Galatians Chapter 6

This is our final chapter and final week of study. Remember, chapters five and six fall into the category — *Living in Grace*. What we mean is that everything we know to be true of the grace of God should ooze out of us, as we make our way through this pilgrimage on earth — how we relate to God, how we relate to others and how we view ourselves.

Those Fruits of the Spirit from last week could be organized in a trilogy to help us understand further what *Living in Grace* looks like:

- **love, joy, peace** are virtues related to our relationship with **God**
- **patience, kindness, goodness** are virtues extended toward **each other**
- **faithfulness, gentleness** and **self-control** are virtues engaged **within**

Most of this final chapter will give us practical examples on those later two categories of virtues. It should show us how a woman, who is *keeping in step with the Spirit*, relates to those around her.

This chapter will assume that all of the former exhortations have been taken to heart..

- That we are standing firm in the gospel of Grace.
- That we have not *fallen from grace* toward an effort-based mindset.

If those things are true, then we will have the freedom to be led by the Spirit, truly and accurately fulfilling the Law of Christ.

Thanks for taking this journey with me,

Sue

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

Day 1:

📖 READ & WRITE Galatians 6:1-2.

Before we look at **v.1-2**, go back to **5:26** and list three things Paul mentioned that can become relational roadblocks to living in grace:

-
-
-

This is an instructive list because it shows us that our ability to love others lies in direct proportion to our opinion of ourselves. In fact, the first item on that list probably results in either of the second actions.

- Read **Romans 12:3**. How does that verse add to this warning?

The goal is a proper view of ourselves because we will certainly rub shoulders with believers, who are *caught in a transgression*. Our instruction is not to ignore or minimize their sin:

- But to restore them how?
- What might that look like in everyday life?
- Has anyone ever restored you gently?
- Have you ever restored someone else gently?

It's important to *understand grace*, so we can *live in grace* toward one another and **so fulfill the law of Christ (v.2)**. Read **Luke 6:1-5**.

- Describe how a *legal-minded* person relates to others:

- Explain the contrast between the Pharisees and the instruction given in **v.2**.

Day 2:

✞ READ & WRITE Galatians 6:3-5.

Yesterday, we saw the contrast between a Spirit-led Christian *carrying others' burdens*, and a legal-minded Christian *adding to others' burdens*.

Maybe there were two phrases that seemed confusing: (v.2) *bear one another's burdens* and (v.5) *each will have to bear his own load*. They seem to say the opposite — so let's investigate.

- What is a word you would use to describe someone who, '*thinks he is something special*' (v.3)?
- Read **Philippians 2:3-4**. What Christian virtue would help us consider others better than ourselves?
- Do you think it is possible to be prideful about the way we help other people? Have you ever been? Explain.
- Do you think it is possible to 'ride on the coat-tails' of others around us, who are helping to carry one another's burdens, and somehow deceptively think we will be rewarded by virtue of our association?

Let's emphasize a few words from v.4 to help this make sense:

"let each one test his _____ work, and then his reason to boast will be in _____ and not in his neighbor."

This is a simple command to obey. Look for a brother or a sister with a burden, and help them with it. It isn't complicated and it doesn't take a huge program or infrastructure to do it. Just look for a burden to bear and bear it!" ⁴
—David Guzik

Day 3:

📖 READ & WRITE Galatians 6:6-10.

Living in Grace is focused on serving others and bringing glory to God. The themes today center around *sowing and reaping*.

- First, let's look at the simple, short statement in **v.6**. What do you think this sentence means?

- What do you think this sentence means to YOU in your life? How do you apply this?

V.7 begins with two short phrases that warn us that we can't play games with God or fool Him. Write out those phrases:

There can be positive and negative examples of sowing and reaping.

- List a positive example of sowing to the Spirit:

- List a negative example of sowing to the flesh:

The Holy Spirit knows our propensity for losing patience and giving up. That's the point of Paul's gentle encouragement. According to **v.9**:

- When will we reap a harvest?

- What is the condition of reaping a harvest?

In what area are you prone to becoming weary and in need of encouragement to *stay the course*?

Day 4:

READ & WRITE **Galatians 6:11-14**.

In your journal, mark *circumcised* by drawing chains above the word, like we did in the previous chapter.

Motives are an important aspect of actions and you really can't separate the two. Even in a jury trial, the question of motive is asked.

- What were Paul's motives in writing this whole letter?

- What did Paul say were the Judaizers' motives?
 - In **v.12**:

 - In **v.13**:

V.12 says people gravitate toward circumcision (substitute any effort-based action here) to avoid being persecuted for the Cross of Christ.

- Why does the message of the Cross invite persecution?

Now let's compare what the two parties boasted in.

- What did the Judaizers boast in (**v.13**)?

- What did Paul boast in (**v.14**)?

- What do you tend to boast in?

Day 5:

✞ READ & WRITE Galatians 6:15-18.

Mark these final words in your journal with chains over *circumcision and uncircumcision*, and a sunrise over the phrase *new creation*.

Christianity is **inward**, rather than **outward**! That short sentence could sum up this whole letter to the Galatians. Some wanted to twist Christianity into outward signs and performance—*What “I” can do*. Paul was reminding them it’s not outward but inward.

- What did he say matters in **v.15**?
- Read **2 Corinthians 5:17** and write it out below.

Christianity is all about **Christ**, not **us**!

Well, my friend—you have done it! Hopefully, you have written out the entire book of Galatians, verse-by-verse, and I trust that you have been led by the Spirit into some fresh areas of understanding.

- Is there a Christian doctrine that has been made more clear to you through your study?
- In what way have you fine-tuned your understanding of God’s grace?
- How have you been challenged to be led by the Spirit of Jesus?

It has been a delight to focus on God’s abundant Grace—His plan and His work in His people. I am thrilled that you came along on this journey. ***The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit! Amen.***

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Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. What do you think is the best approach to helping a sister caught in sin?
2. How easy do you find it to share your time, energy and skills with someone to help ease their burden? Do you think some are more gifted at this than others?
3. What do you think are some roadblocks that cause people to not share financially with those who teach the Word of God to them — specifically, tithing?
4. We are to do good, *especially to those who are of the household of faith*. What is a practical application of that truth for your season of life and your circumstances?
5. Write a verse or phrase that has become meaningful from your study through this book:
6. Write out a practical application from this book that you have put in place in your life.

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Women of the Word Bible Studies

The following WOW Bible Studies written by Sue LeBoutillier are available through the **Calvary Chapel Ontario bookstore**, and through our online store at www.ccontario.com.

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- **Genesis**—Divine Design, From Eden to Egypt
- **Exodus**—Divine Deliverance, From Egypt to Sinai
- **Numbers**—The Wilderness Way, From Sinai to the Jordan
- **Joshua** —The Path of Promise, From the Jordan into Canaan
- **Judges** — A Time of Turning
- **Ruth**—Rescue and Rest
- **1 Samuel**—The Coming King
- **2 Samuel**— The Reigning King
- **1&2 Kings (Part One)**— Solomon and the House of the Lord
- **Jonah**—The Call of Compassion

New Testament:

- **The Way of Jesus** —The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew)
- **Simply Jesus**—The “I AMs” of Christ (John)
- **Acts**—Walking in the Spirit, The First Days of the Last Days
- **Galatians**—Finding Grace in a Demanding World
- **Philippians**—Finding Joy in a Disjointed World
- **Colossians**—Finding Stability in a Changing World
- **Titus**—While We Wait
- **James**—Real Faith for Daily Life
- **1 & 2 Peter**—Hope, Holiness and Humility in a Hostile World
- **1,2,3 John**—Light, Love and Logic