



Small Group Guide: Jesus Plus Nothing Equals Freedom

Galatians 1 - The Gospel Under Attack

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: What's a trend from the past (clothing, music, technology) that you followed but now look back on and laugh about?

Key Scripture

Galatians 1:6-9 "I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel, which is not really another, only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ."

Main Takeaways

1. The Pure Gospel: Jesus + Nothing = Freedom

- Salvation comes through Christ alone, not through works, rules, or human approval
- Any addition to the gospel changes it into something false
- Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6)

2. The Cost of Compromise

- Paul was amazed how quickly the churches abandoned the true gospel (within months to 2 years)
- Adding to the gospel brings a curse, not freedom
- We cannot sugarcoat the message to make it more palatable

3. Boldness Over Popularity

- Paul chose to please God rather than people
- Following Jesus costs something - it's not a "feel-good" religion

- We are all called to be "preachers" - sharers of the gospel

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. What struck you most from this sermon? Why?
2. Read Galatians 1:6-9. Why do you think Paul repeated himself in verse 9 about those who preach a different gospel being "accursed"? What does this tell us about the seriousness of the issue?
3. The sermon mentioned several "Jesus plus" formulas (Jesus + circumcision, Jesus + human approval, Jesus + rule keeping). What are some modern-day "Jesus plus" messages you've encountered in church culture or society?

Personal Reflection

1. The pastor asked: "Have you truly encountered Christ, or just had a good church experience?" What's the difference? Share about your own encounter with Jesus (if comfortable).
2. Paul said in verse 10, "Am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God?" In what areas of your life are you tempted to compromise the gospel or your witness because of what others might think?
3. The sermon mentioned that Jacob "walked differently" after encountering God (Genesis 32). How has encountering Jesus changed the way you "walk" through life? What areas still need transformation?

Application & Action

1. The pastor said, "We can't blame the schools, the government, or the economy - the church has stopped preaching the gospel." What responsibility do we have as individuals to share the gospel in our community? What's holding you back?
2. Read Romans 10:14-15. We're all called to be "preachers" (proclaimers) of the gospel. Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus? What's one practical step you can take this week to share with them?
3. The sermon challenged us to care more about people's eternity than our own reputation. What would change in your daily life if you truly lived this way?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

- **Boldness Practice:** Share your faith story with at least one person who doesn't know Jesus
- **Gospel Check:** Examine your own beliefs - have you added anything to "Jesus alone" for salvation?
- **Prayer Partner:** Find someone in the group to pray with daily for boldness in

- sharing the gospel
- [] Study Deeper: Read all of Galatians this week and use the Dig Deeper resources on the church app/website
- [] Encounter Seeking: Set aside 30 minutes of uninterrupted time to seek a fresh encounter with Jesus through prayer and worship

Accountability Question for Next Week:

"How did you share or live out the gospel this week?"

Memory Verse

John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

Prayer Focus

Pray together for:

- Boldness to share the unadulterated gospel without fear of rejection
- Those who raised their hands during the service - for genuine encounters with Christ
- Your community - that the church would rise up and be the church
- Each other - that you would walk differently after encountering Jesus this week
- Protection from false gospels and the wisdom to discern truth

Closing Thought

"Jesus plus nothing equals freedom. There is no other name by which a man or a woman can be saved. It's not about rules and regulations. It's not about human approval. There is nothing that you can add to the gospel that will bring salvation."

Next Week: Galatians 2 - Read ahead and come prepared to discuss!

Leader Notes

- Create a safe space for honest discussion about struggles with boldness
- Be prepared to share your own story of encountering Christ vs. just experiencing church
- Have tissues available - this topic can bring up emotional responses
- If someone shares they need to accept Christ, take time to pray with them
- Emphasize grace while challenging compromise - balance truth and love