



# Small Group Guide: Jesus Plus Nothing Equals Freedom

Galatians 6 - Series Finale

## Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

**Icebreaker Question:** Share a time when someone lovingly corrected you. How did you respond, and what was the outcome?

## Key Scripture

*"Brethren, if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, each one looking to yourself so that you too will not be tempted." - Galatians 6:1*

## Main Takeaways

### 1. The Pure Gospel: Jesus Plus Nothing

- Salvation comes through Christ alone, not by our works or performance
- Adding to or taking away from the gospel makes it "another gospel"
- Our failures don't affect our salvation when we're in Christ

### 2. Biblical Correction is Love

- We are called to judge righteously (according to God's Word, not our opinions)
- Correction should come from those who are "spiritual" (governed by the Holy Spirit)
- The goal is restoration, not condemnation

### 3. Bearing One Another's Burdens

- Grace demands incarnation, not isolation
- We must get "in the muck and mire" with struggling believers
- Self-awareness of our own need for grace qualifies us to help others

#### **4. The Danger of Spiritual Pride**

- Thinking we're "something" based on our moral performance is deception
- Comparative righteousness blinds us to our own shortcomings
- Pride demands isolation; grace demands incarnation

### **Discussion Questions**

#### **Understanding the Message**

1. What does "Jesus plus nothing equals freedom" mean to you personally? How does this differ from how you may have previously understood salvation?
2. The pastor mentioned that many false gospels are being preached today. What are some examples you've encountered of people adding to or taking away from the true gospel?
3. Read John 7:24. How does Jesus' command to "judge with righteous judgment" differ from the world's understanding of "don't judge"?

#### **Going Deeper**

1. Paul says to restore someone "in a spirit of gentleness" (Galatians 6:1). Why is gentleness essential when correcting a brother or sister in Christ? What happens when correction lacks gentleness?
2. The sermon contrasted "pride demands isolation" with "grace demands incarnation." What does this mean practically? Can you think of biblical examples of each?
3. Discuss the difference between "comparative righteousness" (measuring yourself against others) and examining "your own work" (verse 4). How do we fall into the trap of comparative righteousness?

#### **Personal Reflection**

1. Have you ever felt exhausted trying to "earn" God's love or salvation? What was that experience like? How does understanding grace change that?
2. The pastor mentioned hidden sin thriving in darkness like a poisonous mushroom. Why is bringing sin into the light (confession) so important for freedom?
3. Read Matthew 7:3-5 (the log and speck passage). When have you tried to

correct someone while ignoring your own sin? What was the result?

## **Practical Application**

### **This Week's Challenge:**

Choose one of the following action steps:

#### **Option 1: Self-Examination**

- Spend time this week examining your own heart before God (Galatians 6:4)
- Ask: "Am I measuring myself against others or against God's Word?"
- Confess any areas where you've been trying to earn God's favor through performance

#### **Option 2: Restorative Conversation**

- If God brings someone to mind who is "caught in a trespass," prayerfully consider reaching out
- Before doing so, examine your own heart for pride or judgmental attitudes
- Approach them with gentleness, offering to walk alongside them, not condemn them

#### **Option 3: Burden-Bearing**

- Identify someone in your life who is struggling (spiritually, emotionally, or practically)
- Don't just pray from a distance—get incarnational
- Reach out this week with a call, visit, or practical help

## **Group Prayer Time**

### **Prayer Focus Areas:**

1. For the Exhausted: Pray for those trying to earn God's love through performance. Ask God to help them rest in His grace.
2. For Hidden Sin: Pray for courage to bring hidden sins into the light and experience God's forgiveness and freedom.
3. For Humility: Ask God to reveal any areas of spiritual pride or comparative righteousness in our lives.
4. For Restoration: Pray for wisdom and gentleness to help restore brothers and sisters who have fallen into sin.
5. For Gospel Clarity: Pray that our church would always proclaim the pure

gospel: Jesus plus nothing equals freedom.

## Memory Verse

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." - Ephesians 2:8-9*

## Before Next Week

- Complete the Dig Deeper devotions in the church app
- Reflect on which category you identified with during the altar call
- Practice examining your own work before attempting to correct others
- Journal about areas where you've been adding to the gospel in your own life

## Closing Thought

**"We are only something because Christ made us something. Our identity is not achieved by our moral exertion. It is received by faith."**

**Final Question:** How will understanding this truth change the way you live this week?