

Galatians 6

Gospel Living

Scripture: Galatians 6

Memory Verse: Galatians 6:18 *"Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen."*

Lesson Focus: As we wrap up this book, we learn some of God's "family rules" for gospel living. However, we will also see how these rules are to be observed only from within the safety and security of God's grace as His beloved sons and daughters!

Activities and Crafts: Word Search and Bring It Home Discussion Qs for 3rd - 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: We vs. Me Mask

Starter Activity: Galatians Review Quiz

This is our last lesson in the book of Galatians. Consider starting off with a review quiz to remind the kids of some of the important lessons that we have learned throughout our study of Galatians. To add some more fun, break the kids into teams or groups and have some friendly competition. See true/false statements below and for the one's that are false, discuss what is off and how to make it true! *

- 1) Paul taught it was OK to believe in a "counterfeit" gospel as long as you are nice and your beliefs are sincere. (F, see Galatians 1:8-9) *
- 2) Paul taught that the true gospel was not made up by men, but was given by God. (T, see Galatians 1:11) *
- 3) We learned that Peter was the primary person God used to bring the gospel to Gentiles while Paul was the primary person God used to bring the gospel to the Jews. (F, see Galatians 2:7-8)
- 4) Paul opposed Peter because he was not keeping the Jewish religious laws well. (F, see Galatians 2:11-12) *
- 5) We are saved the same way Abraham was, through faith ALONE. (T, see Galatians 3:6-7)
- 6) Paul taught that if your good works are a "cause" of your salvation, you will be cursed! (T, see Galatians 3:10) *
- 7) We learned that the "point" of God's law was to "point" us to our need for Jesus! (T, see Galatians 3:24) *
- 8) Paul taught that God adopts everyone into His family as His princes and princesses. (F, see Galatians 3:26. Only thru faith in Jesus do people become part of God's family!)
- 9) After we become Christians, we must do good things to stay saved. (F, see Galatians 3:3, 5:1)
- 10) Our good works are an "effect" or fruit of our salvation and not the cause. (T, see Galatians 5:22)

This last question leads us into our last lesson. With the understanding that by faith we can be forgiven and restored to God in relationship, we then bear fruit as we walk by the Spirit. Let's keep that in mind as we wrap up this book!

Bible Study:

Galatians 6:1: Since all believers are part of God's "forever" family *, God has some "family rules" for us today. * For one, we are to help each other yield to the Spirit rather than to sin. * Sometimes we get tripped up by sin and we need fellow Christians to gently help us get back on track. And if a Christian friend of ours gets tripped up by sin, perhaps God would have us gently help them get back on track! *

Galatians 6:2: God wants us to bear one another's burdens! **Teachers:** Consider giving a kid a piggy-back ride to illustrate this. But afterwards, as a joke, ask the kid to give YOU a piggy-back ride because we are to meet one another's needs!

This phrase "one another" is the key to understanding God's family rules. * (**Teachers:** We will leave a "Two-Way Traffic" sign in your class and consider using it to help draw out this point) *

Q: What does this sign mean? A: It means cars are moving in both directions. This is what God expects from us in the church. Not only should we expect to receive help, but we should also be willing to give help! Why? Because we are forgiven and loved by God! * Jesus bore our burden (sin!) on the cross! With grateful hearts He would have us meet the needs of one another! *

Galatians 6:3: This is a strong warning against being conceited. *

Q: What does it mean to be conceited? A: Selfish! Instead of receiving AND giving in love, this person might only be receiving (**Teachers:** See the "One-Way" sign). Or because of how self-important he sees himself, he only wants to give, not in love, but from a sense of superiority. No, we are to think "WE" more than "ME"!

Galatians 6:4-5: God does not want His kids comparing themselves against one another anymore than your parents want you to compare yourself against your biological siblings! Rather, each of us is to know that we are equally loved by God! And with the help of God's Spirit *, we can both bear our own load while also bearing the burdens of our Christian brothers and sisters. * **Teachers:** Consider sharing a few scenarios and have the kids answer whether it's about "WE" or "ME"
Example 1: I read my Bible so God loves me more than that kid who doesn't. (ME)
Example 2: I read my Bible and I want to encourage that kid to also. (WE)

Galatians 6:6: One particular "family rule" that God has for His people is for the one who is taught to show appreciation to his teacher. * This is one reason why we all give to the church. This giving helps the church leaders continue teaching, counseling, and shepherding so that God's people can continue to walk by the Spirit!

Galatians 6:7a: Paul now warns us not to be deceived! Q: What's this mean?

Not to be fooled or tricked! This has been his message throughout this book! Do not be fooled by a counterfeit gospel (works-based). Do not be deceived by your sin! Do not be tricked by your conceit! They will ruin you! Instead, hold on to the gospel!

Galatians 6:7b-8: Using the illustration of gardening, he reminds us to walk in or sow to the Spirit. * For if we walk in the flesh/sin, it will only lead to destruction. * We are mocking God if we think we can sin without any consequences!

Galatians 6:9: We are not to grow weary in doing good even though the results may not be instantaneous. This can be hard, but it certainly builds character!

Q: Have you ever planted something and saw it finally sprout and grow? How long did it take and how much care did it require? *

Galatians 6:10: Again, we are to do good to all, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ. When we observe God's family rules maintaining a "WE" focus more than a "ME" focus, not only will be pleasing God, but we will be a blessing to the world. This is true gospel living!

Galatians 6:11: Paul wraps up this letter now with a final personal plea. Perhaps he wrote these last words in all caps like people do today in texting for emphasis!

Galatians 6:12-13: Paul pleads with them again to not be deceived by these bad guys who have been trying to shipwreck their faith with religious rule-keeping!

Galatians 6:14-15: For the true gospel is not about what we do, but what Christ did and does through us. The true gospel is inside-out: When we trust in Jesus Christ, something changes **inside** of us which produces a new motivation and direction for living on the **outside**. (see **2 Corinthians 5:17**) But the message of these bad guys, and every other world religion, is to keep the focus on the outside through religious rule-keeping. That's not the gospel!

Galatians 6:16: All those who have experienced this inside-out transformation are believers and followers of Jesus. And therefore, God's peace and mercy is theirs!

Galatians 6:17-18: Paul closes this letter emphasizing the same thing he began it with: **GRACE!** Gospel living begins by His grace and continues by His grace. *

Key Point: Throughout this letter, Paul has explained and defended the true gospel of God's grace: that we can be part of His family by faith and trust in the finished work of Jesus (not by our works!).

Q: Are you a member of His family? If not, come and join today thru faith in Jesus! If yes, then consider how you can have more of a "WE" focus than a "ME" focus this week. God's family rules are for you, as a loved and cherished child of God!

Bring It Home

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,

To the saints who are faithful in Christ Jesus:

*Greetings! Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

First

Read Galatians 6:2. What does it mean to bear one another's burdens? Whose burden could you help bear this week?

Second

Read Galatians 6:7-8. In what ways can you sow to the Spirit this week?

Parent Challenge

What is one thing that you have learned from the book of Galatians?

By His Grace,

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