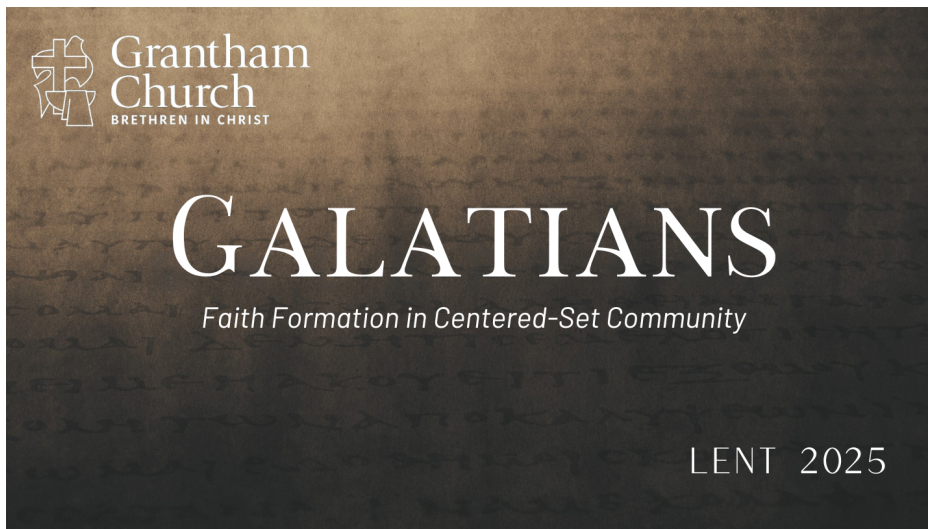


## Galatians: Faith Formation in Centered-Set Community

### Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the recent sermons page at our website and at the Grantham Church Podcast the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, March 16th, 2024**



**Series Focus:** The Apostle Paul wrote a passionate letter to the churches in Galatia that has the potential to lead us to more profoundly experience the liberating work of Jesus in and through Christian community. Paul wrote, “My children—I seem to be in labor with you all over again, until the Messiah is fully formed in you!” Join us for Lent 2025 as we explore this letter to better understand the problem that provoked Paul to write it, and as we seek to gain new insights by using the concept of bounded, fuzzy, and centered-set churches as a lens for interpreting and applying Galatians to our lives.

**Sermon Title:** Confronting Bounded Thinking

**Scripture Reading:** Acts 11:1-18, 15:1-5; Galatians 2:1-21; Ephesians 2:8-9

**Sermon Focus:** Paul said that the leaders of the Jerusalem church had accepted him and his ministry, so why are the Galatians now listening to a false gospel from some law-abiding agitators? Paul even says that he confronted Peter in Antioch after he accepted and ate with Gentiles but then changed his mind when the agitators arrived. In the second message of our series, Pastor David shares why this is a big problem and how we must lovingly confront *bounded* thinking with the gospel of God’s grace.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Begin by having someone read Galatians 2:1-21 aloud in your group. We can easily hear Paul's frustrated tone because of the opposition he has faced from law-abiding agitators from Jerusalem, because of Peter's bounded thinking and hypocrisy, and because it all had confused, vexed, and led astray the Galatians. What words or phrases stick out to you the most in this chapter?
2. Paul said, "I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain." This was a repeated concern that Paul had (1 Cor. 15:58; Phil 2:16). He worried that he might be working hard and suffering for nothing. He likely asked himself, "Am I making a difference? Is this worth all the pain and sorrow?" Have you ever felt that way or thought those things? What is God saying to you?
3. In Acts 11, Peter was given a vision that God was accepting the Gentiles into his Kingdom, and that boundary-marker faith was going away. But Peter flip flops and gives in to bounding thinking when the Jewish opposition party arrives in Antioch. Peter stops having table fellowship with the Gentile Christians. Paul is furious about his hypocrisy! How would you have responded to Peter's hypocrisy in Antioch? Would you have responded in a bounded, fuzzy, or centered way?
4. What exclusion have you experienced or observed in the church for not believing or doing the right things, or having the right identity markers? And what about on social media? How do you think we might intentionally or unintentionally exclude, belittle, or shame others in everyday life or on social media? This is a conservative and liberal problem. Why do you think we do this?
5. Being a "centered" church means that we meet people where they are on their journey with Christ. We may not approve of everything they say, do, or believe, but we do accept them as God accepts us, and we meet them where they are. Be honest. Who is the Spirit inviting you to meet where they are on their journey? What can you say or do to let them know they are loved?
6. How has God been speaking to you through this series so far? What is he saying to you about your own attitude and posture toward others? What is he saying to you about bounded vs. centered church? Share with the group and then close your time together in prayer for each other, our congregation, and our world.