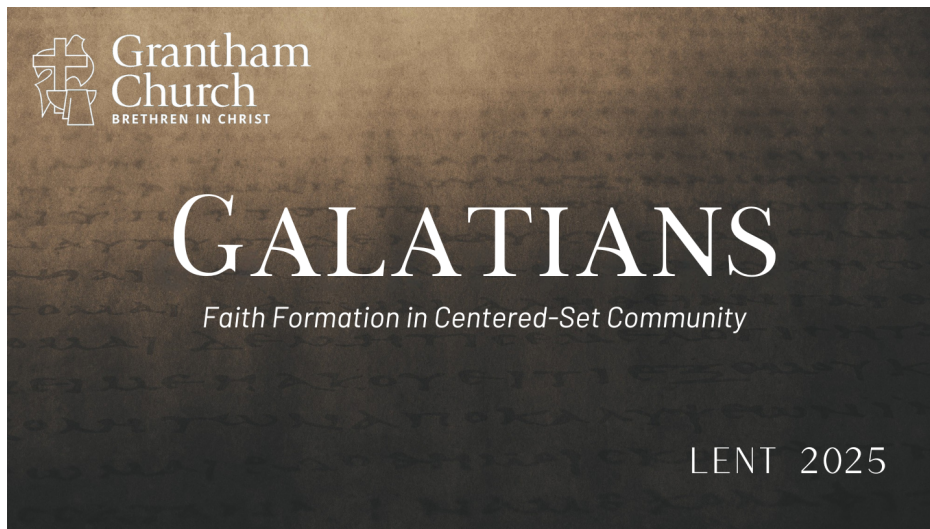


Galatians: Faith Formation in Centered-Set Community

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 30th, 2025



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: Children of Freedom

Scripture Reading: Galatians 4:1-31; Genesis 15-16, 21:1-14; Isaiah 54:1

Sermon Focus: Jesus Christ has made it possible for us to be in right relationship with God. But, just as the Galatians were believing a false gospel of self-salvation, we also succumb to lies that we must earn the approval of God. In the fourth message of our series, Pastor Melissa will unpack Paul's urgent message in Galatians 4 that we are God's beloved children and when we rest in that reality, we are freed from our strivings and can live as a community helping others experience freedom in Christ.

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

1. Read Galatians 4:1-31. What do you notice about how Paul talks about slavery and freedom? What stands out to you from the passage?
2. In verses 8-9, Paul is comparing the Galatians' former slavery under pagan practices with the slavery of Biblical legalism they are succumbing to now. Both are ways one can seek to earn his own salvation or prove her righteousness. Have you ever thought about this parallel? What does slavery to striving look like today? What do you notice are the "basic principles" or building blocks of life for your neighbors and friends? What about for you?
3. Melissa shared this chart outlining the differences between a person in slavery to striving to earn their salvation and a person resting in their status as a child of God. What resonates with you? How is God speaking to you?

Slave to Striving	Child of God
Self-conscious, anxious	Confident in Christ, free from worry, joyful
Feels guilty, unworthy	Feels loved, accepted
Concerned about performance	Able to fail, not concerned about record
Full of fear	Trusts God
Defensive, needs to be right, arrogant	Open to criticism, standing in Christ's perfection
Needs to be in control	Relies on the Holy Spirit
Ungrateful, critical	Grateful, encourages others
Compares self with others	Can confess faults
Feels powerless to defeat the flesh	Increasing victory over the flesh through resting in Christ
Lacks vital prayer life	Loves prayer
Doesn't share the gospel because isn't experiencing the good news	Talks about Jesus a lot; wants others to know Him

4. Verse 6 tells us that God gives us his Spirit to remind us of our status as children of God and empower us to rest in that status. In what ways do you create space regularly to listen to the Spirit's voice of love and grace? What is a way you could lean into the presence of the Spirit this week?

5. Verses 12-20 show us Paul's longing for the Galatians to grasp the truth of the gospel and give a glimpse into the close relationship he had with the Galatians. He deeply invested in them as he entered their world, gave them access to his life, and trusted God to bring good through hardship. Is there someone in your life God might be inviting you to invest in? If you feel comfortable, share the name of that person with the group. What would it take to understand their hopes and fears? How can you welcome them into your home, and beyond that, into your life?
6. Pray together for the people you just shared, and also for one another, asking the Holy Spirit to help you experience God's love and grace more deeply.