

## 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, April 13th, 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:** Carefronting in a Centered-Set Church

**Scripture Reading:** Galatians 6:1-18; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

**Sermon Focus:** In the final chapter of Galatians, Paul follows up his call to repent of the “acts of the flesh” so that we can bear “fruit of the Spirit” with guidance on how to respond to disciples being overcome by sin. How do we care-front others in a way that isn’t “bounded” but is in keeping with the gospel of God’s grace? In this concluding message of our series, Pastor David shares how God calls us to sincerely care for each other as disciples and he casts a vision for being a centered-set congregation.

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

1. Take a couple of minutes to have each person read Galatians 6:1-18 silently and then ask someone to read it aloud to the group. What word(s) or phrases stand out to you? What do you hear God saying through this final chapter of Galatians?
2. How is God calling you to care about someone else's struggles and help carry their "burdens" of sin (Gal.6:2)? Who is the Lord laying on your heart and why? And what might it look like to reach out to them and show them love?
3. Read Galatians 6:1-10 again. Also, read Matthew 18:15-20. These two passages talk about what we often call "church discipline" being relational and done in love with the aim of reconciling and restoring someone to God, faith, and the church. Pastor David said that helping someone who is caught in sin is an act of love. It is not loving to let someone continue to walk in darkness. If we're told to do this, why do you think we don't often do it or we don't do it very well?
4. Carefronting is about having difficult conversations with kindness, empathy, understanding, and a genuine desire to help the other person grow and improve. How is that different than "confronting" someone? How have you experienced the difference? Do you need to *carefront* someone you know?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13. Paul's response is very different than his approach with the Galatians, but, as Pastor David pointed out, he is stern with the church in Corinth because someone was unashamedly living in sin and they were apparently proud of it, boasting about it, and celebrating it as a sign of how accepting and tolerant they were. And it's because of this attitude toward sin that Paul demanded a strong response. Can you think of an example today of someone having this attitude toward sin and it requiring immediate action for the sake of the persons involved and for the spiritual health of the church?
6. How is the Spirit inviting you not to grow weary in doing good (Gal.6:9), particularly as it relates to doing the harder stuff of faith formation? How is God calling you to press on in your own spiritual growth and your care for others?
7. Be honest. Do you tend to be more bounded or more fuzzy in your thinking and behavior? How has the book of Galatians challenged you to be more centered? Be specific. After everyone shares, close in prayer for each other.