



fellowship church

Sermon Discussion Guide

May 10, 2026 - Scott Allen - *Reading of Galatians*

To prepare for our next sermon series, the congregation listened to the reading of the book of Galatians. Galatians was written by the apostle Paul to believers in the Roman province of Galatia, in modern-day Turkey. Paul evangelized and helped establish churches in this region, likely the southern part of Galatia, during his missionary journeys.

Before the reading, Pastor Scott's mini-message emphasized the necessity of keeping the true gospel central to our faith. Just as ignoring obvious warning signs leads to disaster, moving away from the simple truth of the gospel—that we are justified by faith in Jesus Christ alone, not by works—leads to spiritual danger. We must constantly state and restate the obvious truth of the gospel because we are prone to drift. Paul wrote Galatians with fiery passion to call the church back to the true gospel of grace, warning them that adding anything to the message distorts it entirely.

Reflection Questions

- Was there anything that surprised you as you read/listened to the book of Galatians?
 - If Paul was in the room after you read/listened to his letter, what questions would you ask him about the text?
 - Were there any themes or repetition you picked up on while you listened to the entire book?
 - After an initial reading/listening: What is your best guess as to Paul's main purpose(s) in writing this letter to the Galatians?
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Application Questions

- As you read and listened to Galatians, did a portion of the text immediately encourage you? Did any part of it convict you?
 - How do you hope to use the Galatians journals both personally throughout the week and during sermons?
 - **Pray:** Spend a few minutes praying that the Holy Spirit would use the book of Galatians to teach, sanctify, convict and encourage our church. Pray that the study of this book would form us as *a family of disciples on mission*.
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A closer look: the Backstory

Paul planted the churches in Galatia during his first missionary journey. To understand his passion in this letter, it helps to see what he endured to bring them the gospel.

Read **Acts 13:32-39** and **Acts 14:19-28** with your group.

- What were the central points of the message Paul preached to these cities?
 - What kind of opposition did he face to deliver it?
 - How does knowing what Paul preached and suffered to plant these churches help us understand his fiery, emotional tone in the letter to the Galatians?
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This week's guide written by: Anna Koke & Scott Allen

Tips for Group Leaders

- DO ask open-ended questions. DON'T ask questions where a short "right" answer ends the discussion.
- DO encourage mutual participation by every group member. DON'T feel the need to respond or weigh in after every contribution. Avoid monologuing. As the leader, your goal is to facilitate mutual discussion between all group members (Eph 4:15–16).
- DO ask follow-up questions: "What do you mean by that?" "Tell me more!" "Has anyone else experienced something similar (or different)?"
- DO feel free to pick and choose questions that are a good fit for your group. DON'T feel the need to get through every question, and don't worry if you spend most of your time on a few questions that generate a lot of good discussion.
- DO keep the main thing the main thing. Steer your conversation toward the main theme of the sermon and the biblical text. DON'T get sidetracked on less important matters, theological debates, etc. A rabbit trail might sometimes be worth pursuing—if group members are wrestling deeply with the implications of biblical truth for their lives. Otherwise, steer conversation back to the main topic.
- DO get into the text. It could be helpful to read over the passage together or ask questions directly related to the text. Help group members engage the text for themselves and respond to what they see there.
- DO revisit important moments from the sermon—a memorable story, an impactful quote, a convicting point of application. "Remember when pastor X talked about Y? What impression did that make on you?"
- DO allow space for reflection, silence, and thoughtful answers. DON'T feel that you need to jump in or ask a new question just because the group has been quiet for a few seconds. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the silence gets awkward, then count silently to ten before jumping in.
- DO bring discussions home to practical, concrete everyday life. DON'T let discussion and application stay in the abstract realm. Steer discussion toward *what does responding to this sermon look like for me?* If comments are vague or general, ask "what would that look like, practically?"