



Sermon Discussion Guide

June 28 - Pastor Scott Allen

Living as Heirs - Galatians 3:15-29

In this week's sermon, Pastor Scott addressed the questions, *What does it mean to be a son of Abraham?* and *why does it matter?* Why is it good news that I'm an heir by faith in Christ and how does it make a difference for my day-to-day life? He broke the passage down into three sections - the plan of God, the purpose of the law, and our privilege as heirs. In Galatians 3:15-18, Paul recounts the **plan of God** in setting up covenants to relate to imperfect, unfaithful humans and ultimately pointing to Christ as the only truly faithful covenant-keeper. In verses 19-24, Paul highlights the **purpose of the law**—to restrain evil, reveal sin, and make his people ready for a Deliverer. Finally, in verses 25-29 Paul reminds us of our **privilege as heirs**—that despite our own unfaithfulness, God kept both sides of the Genesis 15 blood oath by absorbing the curse our failure deserves on the cross, making a way for us to become sons and heirs.

Discussion Starter

- What would change about the way you live your life if you were guaranteed a billion-dollar inheritance? How would this promised inheritance impact your thinking, emotions, and actions?

Reflection Questions

- According to this passage, what does it mean to be a “son of Abraham” and an “heir according to the promise?” Think how you might explain this to a newer believer who is reading this for the first time. (Or, if there are newer believers in the group who are comfortable sharing, ask them what still feels difficult or confusing about this concept.)
 - Pastor Scott shared that God's Word (both Old and New Covenants/Testaments) serves the same purpose for us as it did the Israelites - restraining evil, revealing sin, and making us ready/realize our need for a Deliverer. Share examples of how you've seen God's Word work in these ways in your own or others' lives.
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Application Questions

- (Personal implications) Think back to the *discussion starter* question above. How does the promised inheritance we have in Christ impact our thinking, our emotions, and our day-to-day actions? Does it feel as “real” as a billion-dollar inheritance? Why or why not?
- (Communal implications) Verse 28 states that “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” If Paul were writing this to Fellowship Church today, what categories might he use in place of Jew/Greek, slave/free, and male/female, to remind us that we are all one in Christ Jesus and heirs together of the promise?
- (Missional implications) How might the truths of this passage be compelling to non-believers in our contexts today?
 - (If the group needs more of a nudge for this question, try the following): How could these concepts - God as the only perfect promise keeper, God’s Word as a force restraining evil, and/or Christians as sons and heirs of God - be used as bridges for gospel conversations with non-believers in our lives?
- Vision Question: *We are a family of disciples on mission.* Who in your life and sphere of influence needs to hear that God is faithful to his promises, even when we are not? Pray together (or in small groups of 2-3) for these individuals.

This week’s guide written by: Kara Pabón

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?"