



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What is your favorite style of Bible teaching, verse-by-verse or topical? In your opinion, what are the strengths and weaknesses of each?

Have someone in the group retell the illustration from the sermon explaining the difference between a gift card and a discount card. Have someone else explain how that applies to the main topic of Galatians.

Who were the Judaizers and what did they believe? How were their teachings affecting the believers in Galatians? Do you think believers today are being affected by similar false teachings?

Read Galatians 1:1-5. What stands out most in Paul's greeting to you? Why?

Read Galatians 1:6-9. What issue is Paul concerned about among the Galatian believers? What are some of the words he uses to describe this issue and/or its effect on them? Why do you think this is such a big deal to the Apostle?

How would you describe Paul's emotional state as he writes this letter? Why? Do you think it's OK for him to have those emotions?

Read Acts 20:30; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Col.2:4. What do these verses say about deceivers? What are some actions we can take to protect ourselves from false teaching today?

Jesus + \_\_\_ = Salvation Do you agree or disagree the idea that inserting anything in the blank will give you the wrong answer? Why?

Are you trusting in Christ alone for your salvation? What questions do you have about that?



## Leader's Guide

### Trouble With The Gospel, Galatians 1:1-9

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#### OVERVIEW

Paul's letter to the Galatians is the rally cry of The Reformation and its six chapters the foundation upon which Martin Luther stood when he declared salvation is found in Christ alone. The main message of the letter focuses on maintaining the purity of the gospel. In it, Paul refutes the Judaizers, Jewish believers who were teaching that the Gentiles must also convert to Judaism along with its laws and regulations in order to be saved. Paul words refute their message of "works salvation", cutting like a surgeon's knife to remove any cancerous addition to the message of pure grace, freeing like a jailer's key to unlock the shackles that enslave by endless rules and regulations of religion, and sounding the battleground trumpet in order to rally great army of grace. *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1)*

#### OUTLINE & SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- I. **Paul's Greeting** 1:1-5 (Acts 1:26, 9:3-5, 13:2-3, John 17:11-16, Eph. 2:2)
- II. **Paul's Grievance** 1:6-9

#### III. WRAP UP

**A. Meet the Judaizers:** Former Jews who converted to Christianity. They believed that one must accept Judaism as a prerequisite to becoming a Christian and were undermining the pure message of grace. "You must be circumcised and accept the OT law."

#### B. Contrast of Judaizers and Legalists

PHARISAICAL JUDAISM	LEGALISM
Focus - Justification	Focus - Sanctification
Converting to Christianity requires becoming Jewish	Being holy requires following extra-biblical rules and/or puts emphasis on minor issues
"You're not a Christian if" -	"You're not holy if" -
Emphasizes <u>what else one must do to become</u> a Christian	Usually emphasizes <u>what one doesn't do in order to live</u> like a Christian
Undermines the true gospel	Undermines the Spirit's work
	Evolves into "another gospel"

- C. **Jesus + ? = The Wrong Answer** Eph. 2:4-9; John 14:6