

Read Galatians 4:1-2

4:1 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father.

1. How does an heir differ from a slave?
2. How is an heir similar to a slave when they are a child?

Read Galatians 4:3,8-9

4:3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world...8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. 9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

3. Circle the phrase that reoccurs in verse 3 and verse 8. Box the verb that reoccurs in verse 3 and verse 8. Underline the phrase known God that occurs three times.
4. Who or what did we used to be enslaved to before we knew God?

Read Galatians 4:4-7

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

5. What two persons has God sent?
6. God sent for his son
Born of _____
Born under _____
7. According to verse 5, why was the Son born under the Law?
8. According to verse 5, why did God send his Son to redeem us?
9. According to verse 7, if we are sons we are also what?

Read Galatians 4:9-11

9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years! 11 I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

10. The elementary principles of this world are _____ and _____

11. According to verse 10, what are the Galatians doing that demonstrate they are turning back to the weak and worthless elementary principles?

12. Paul worries that he may have labored over the Galatians in _____

Read Galatians 3:22

21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise.

13. Paul accuses “those who desire to be under the law” of not _____ to the law.

14. The book of Genesis accounts God’s promise to give a son to Abraham and Sarah. Yet throughout the story Abraham doubts God’s ability to keep this promise. Abraham brings Lot, believes Eleazar to be his heir, and fathers Ishmael through his slave Hagar. Paul says Ishmael was born according to the flesh. How was Ishmael’s birth an example of not trusting in the promise of God?

Read Galatians 3:23-24

24 Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children.

15. Paul says this may be interpreted allegorically. An allegorical interpretation is a non-literal interpretation used to extrapolate moral principles. Paul says the two sons can be interpreted as two covenants. What two covenants does Paul have in mind?

16. Why is the Old Covenant like slavery?

17. In what ways, does it remind us of Abraham trying to earn the promise instead of trusting in the promise given to Him by God?

Read Galatians 4:26-27

26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband." 28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.

18. How does the New Covenant bring freedom? In what ways is it like Abraham trusting God to provide the Son of Promise?

Read Galatians 4:28-30

28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. 30 But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman."

19. In Genesis Hagar (the slave woman) mocked the day of feasting for Isaac the son of Promise. In the same way, Paul says, those who earn their righteousness according to the flesh (their works) mock those who have been born according to the promise.

Which son of Abraham do the Judaizers/legalists correspond to?

Which son of Abraham do believers correspond to?

20. In the Genesis story, Hagar and Ishmael are cast out per Sarah's request. If the Judaizers/legalists correspond to Hagar and Ishmael, what does Paul say the church should do with these Judaizers according to verse 30?

Read Galatians 4:31-5:1

4:31 So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. 5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

21. For _____, Christ has set us free.

22. What does your answer to question 22 mean?

Group Application:

- 1. What truth resonated most with you as you studied Galatians 4:1-11, 21-5:1?**

- 2. Why are rules (moralism and legalism) appealing to earn our way to God's favor? How are they enslaving in the end? What happens if you fail? What happens if you succeed?**

- 3. What rules are you tempted to turn to, in order that you might justify yourself spiritually? How do these rules fall short of living in freedom?**

- 4. What sort of feelings does knowing that you're saved by your relationship with Jesus produce?**

- 5. Galatians 5:1 says for freedom, Christ has set us free. Why do you think God want us to live in freedom?**

- 6. In some ways, this concept is all about the motivations of the heart. Two people may do the same action, but for entirely different reasons. Why does motivation matter and not just actions?**

- 7. What does it look like for you personally to relate to God, yourself, and others based on what Christ has done? What might be some ways you can seek to rest in the relationship better?**

- 8. Share requests and pray for one another. Specifically pray that you trust in the relationship rather than the rules!**