Triangle Bible Study Lesson 1: Galatians Overview

Introduction: In the early church, Jews who became followers of Jesus struggled with their dual religious identities. As Jews they felt bound to follow the law of Moses, but as new Christians, they were invited to experience liberty found only in the Gospel. Judaizers were Jewish Christians that insisted Gentile followers of Jesus must also submit to the Jewish laws and traditions. The Book of Galatians was written to refute the legalistic teachings of Judaizers and to call true believers back to Gospel liberation.

Warmup

• What is something new you learned from the Galatians Overview Lecture?

Day 1: Read Galatians 1 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 1. Who wrote this book (v. 1)? To whom was it written (v. 2)? What was the main problem being addressed in Galatians (vs. 6-7)?
- 2. Make a bullet point summary of what you learn about Paul's calling to the Gospel ministry (vs. 11-23).
- 3. Why is it so important that the Gospel be understood clearly by those receiving it?

Day 2: Read Galatians 2 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

4. To what had Paul and Peter been entrusted (vs. 6-8)?

- 5. Why did Paul oppose Peter in vs. 11-14?
- 6. Record the verses in Galatians 2 that refer to faith in Jesus Christ (vs. 15-21). Why is this significant?

Day 3: Read Galatians 3 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 7. Why did Paul consider the Galatian church members foolish (vs. 1-5)?
- 8. Why was Abraham known as the "man of faith" (vs. 6-14)? How do you know that you have been "credited with righteousness" like Abraham?
- 9. How does one's inheritance from God depend on the promise rather than the law (vs. 15-25?)

Day 4: Read Galatians 4 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 10. What warning is Paul giving to the Galatian church (vs. 8-20)?
- Make a chart giving distinctions between Sarah and Hagar (vs. 21-31).
 Sarah Hagar

12. What is your "takeaway" from Galatians 4?

Day 5: Read Galatians 5 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 13. What does v. 6 mean and how might you apply it?
- 14. Write a paragraph (in your own words) describing life in the Spirit (vs. 16-26).

Day 6: Read Galatians 6 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 15. Verse 1 speaks of someone caught in sin being restored gently by one who is more spiritual. What do you think this means and what warning is given?
- 16. What does the Apostle Paul conclude about circumcision in v. 15? (Use 2 Corinthians 5:17 to help you answer this question.)
- 17. What principle is derived from Paul's conclusion and how could you apply it to your life?

Lesson 2: Galatians 1

Warmup

• Explain how the lecture on Galatians 1 helped you understand something better.

Day 1: Read Galatians 1:1-5 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 1. According to v. 1, what job title did Paul use? Who was Paul's boss? What historical event did Paul reference concerning God the Father and Jesus? Why was this event so significant to Paul and Christians today?
- 2. How did Paul greet the churches in Galatia (v. 3)? How have you experienced the "grace and peace" of God?
- 3. What did Jesus do for us, how did He accomplish it and how should you respond (v. 4-5)?

Day 2: Read Galatians 1:6-10, Joshua 24:15, Romans 2:29, Colossians 3:23-24 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 4. What astonished Paul about the churches in Galatia (v. 6)?
- 5. What words are used to describe the spiritual (theological) condition of the Galatians (v. 7)? What reveals how seriously Paul considers this issue (vs. 8-9)?

6. What principle is expressed in v. 10 and the following cross references? How might you apply these verses to your life?

Joshua 24:15

Romans 2:29

Colossians 3:23-24

Day 3: Read Galatians 1:11-12, 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 7. What do you learn about the Gospel in vs. 11-12?
- 8. List facts about the Gospel from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6.
- 9. Write down what you believe to be true about the Gospel? What difference has the Gospel made in your life?

Day 4: Read Galatians 1:13-24 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

10. What does this text reveal about Paul's life before meeting Jesus Christ (vs. 13-14)?

- 11. What do you think Paul meant to communicate in v. 15?
- 12. After placing his trust in Jesus, what did Paul NOT do and what did he do, using vs. 16-24?

Day 5: Read Acts 9:1-19 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 13. How does Paul's testimony, recorded in Acts 9, bring conviction to your heart and why?
- 14. What impresses you about Ananias (vs. 10-17)?

Day 6: Review Galatians 1 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 15. After reading through Galatians 1 again, write a paragraph-long prayer expressing your gratitude to God for something you learned.
- 16. Without naming specific churches or people, give an example of how one might "pervert the Gospel of Christ" today (v. 7)?

Lesson 3: Galatians 2

Warmup

• How did the lecture on Galatians 2 help you understand the passage better?

Day 1: Read Galatians 2:1-5, Acts 15:1-2 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 1. Describe the main issue that Paul references in Galatians 2 and Acts 15:1-2.
- 2. What was Paul's motivation for not giving in to the Judaizers (v. 5)?
- 3. How will you apply what you learned from today's verses?

Day 2: Read Galatians 2:6-10 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 4. Why was Paul not intimidated by those perverting the Gospel he preached?
- 5. What was different and what was similar about Paul and Peter's ministries?
- 6. Who supported Paul while in Jerusalem (v. 9)? Why would this support be critical for the sake of the Gospel?

Day 3: Read Galatians 2:11-13, Matthew 23:27-28, Mark 7:6, Titus 1:16 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- Of what did Paul accuse Peter in today's text? What motivated Peter to conduct himself this way? Describe the result (v. 13). What happened in Jerusalem recorded in Acts 11:2-3?
- 8. How is hypocrisy depicted in the following cross references?

Matthew 23:27-28

Mark 7:6

Titus 1:16

9. In your life, what hypocritical area needs to change? Ask God to help you stop your hypocrisy.

Day 4: Read Galatians 2:14-16, Romans 9:30-32 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 10. What did Paul say Jews know by birth? What point was he making in v. 16?
- 11. How is Romans 9:30-32 consistent with Galatians 2:16?

12. How will you apply the two verses provided in today's lesson?

Day 5: Read Galatians 2:17-21 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 13. Paul mentions "the law" 3 times in today's verses. Describe his teaching on what the law can and cannot do.
- 14. The words "life" or "live" appear 4 times in v. 20. To what is Paul testifying?
- 15. How does Galatians 2:20 resonate with you?

Day 6: Review Galatians 2 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 16. What truth found in Galatians 2 do you better understand after your study this week?
- 17. How will you respond to God's Word found in this lesson?

Lesson 4: Galatians 3

Warmup

• What was your main takeaway from the lecture on Galatians 3?

Day 1: Read Galatians 3:1-5, Acts 13:39, Romans 3:20 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 1. What do you learn about the law and the Spirit in today's verses?
- 2. Explain how these verses teach you to grow spiritually.
- 3. What do the cross references below teach about the law?

Acts 13:39

Romans 3:20

Day 2: Read Galatians 3:6-9, Romans 4:18-24 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

4. How is Abraham's faith described in vs. 6-9?

- 5. From Romans 4:18-24, what does "credited to him as righteousness" mean?
- 6. Why is Abraham's faith so important to both Jew and Gentile?

Day 3: Read Galatians 3:10-14 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 7. How is the law a curse to people?
- 8. What did Jesus Christ do about the curse of the law?
- 9. How can you be assured you do not fall under the curse of the law?

Day 4: Read Galatians 3:15-18, Romans 4:14-16 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 10. Who is the "seed" promised to Abraham (v. 16)?
- 11. Which came first, the promises (covenant) to Abraham or the law of Moses (vs. 16-18)? Why is this significant?

12. On what does the inheritance from God depend (v. 18)? Is your hope in God's promise or His law? Explain your answer (Romans 4:14-16).

Day 5: Read Galatians 3:19-29 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 13. What was the law's purpose (v. 19)? Is the law opposed to God's promises (v. 21)? What did the law accomplish (v. 24)?
- 14. How can you be liberated from the law (v. 25)?
- 15. What comfort do you receive from vs. 26-29?

Day 6: Review Galatians 3 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 16. List Paul's main point in chapter 3?
- 17. What is your takeaway from chapter 3?

Lesson 5: Galatians 4

Warmup

• How were you helped by the lecture on Galatians 4?

Day 1: Read Galatians 4:1-5, Romans 1:4, Hebrews 2:17, 2 Corinthians 5:21 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 1. Describe how Paul compares an underage heir to those enslaved by the influence of the world (vs. 1-3).
- 2. What did God do at just the right time, and what was the result (vs. 4-5)?
- 3. Why was it necessary that Jesus be sent by God, born of a woman and born under the law (v. 5)? What qualified Him as our redeemer (Romans 1:4, Hebrews 2:17, 2 Corinthians 5:21)?

Day 2: Read Galatians 4:6-7, Romans 8:14-16 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 4. Who is the Spirit of God's Son mentioned in Galatian 4:6 and Romans 8:14-16?
- 5. What 3 things does the Spirit do, according to Romans 8:15-16?

6. Considering your answer from Question 5, how is your life different because of God's Spirit?

Day 3: Read Galatians 4:8-11, Colossians 2:20, Romans 14:5 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 7. What admonishment did Paul give to the Galatian church? Describe their main problem.
- 8. How do the following cross references connect to the Galatian church?

Colossians 2:20

Romans 14:5

9. How does living by "weak and miserable principles" (trying to earn one's salvation) prevent you from enjoying your inheritance?

Day 4: Read Galatians 4:12-20 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 10. Describe how Paul both commended and exhorted the Galatian church (vs. 12-16).
- 11. What clues are given as to what might be Paul's illness?

12. What does Paul teach about zealousness in vs. 17-18, and how might the lesson be applied by you?

Day 5: Read Galatians 4:21-31 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 13. List facts about Sarah and Hagar from today's verses.
- 14. What are the two covenants represented by Sarah and Hagar? Describe what you learned about them.
- 15. How could you apply anything you learned from today's lesson?

Day 6: Review Galatians 4 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 16. List the most interesting thing you learned from Chapter 4 and the reason why.
- 17. What verse/verses in Chapter 4 brought conviction to your heart?
- 18. If you were giving a talk on Chapter 4, what would be the title?

Lesson 6: Galatians 5

Warmup

• How did the lecture help you understand Galatians 5?

Day 1: Read Galatians 5:1-6 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 1. How does Paul exhort the Galatians to maintain their Christian liberty (vs. 1-2)?
- 2. State the warning given in v. 4, to a person trying to make themselves right with God by keeping the law.
- 3. How does your life lineup with v. 6?

Day 2: Read Galatians 5:7-12 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 4. Write down your understanding of the two analogies Paul uses in v. 7 and v. 9. How does each relate to one's faith in Jesus Christ?
- 5. According to vs. 10-12, why is it important to listen to the right message from the right messenger?

6. What have you learned from today's verses?

Day 3: Read Galatians 5:13-18 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 7. How does our text challenge you to use your freedom in Christ (vs. 13-15)?
- 8. In what ways do the "flesh" and the "Spirit" conflict with one another (vs. 16-18)?
- 9. Explain how you will apply something taught in today's scripture.

Day 4: Read Galatians 5:19-23 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 10. Paul gives a list of behaviors he calls "the acts of the sinful nature." Why does he warn about such behaviors (v. 21)?
- 11. Record the 9 behaviors and attitudes known as the fruit of the Spirit. Why is living by the Spirit of God liberating (vs. 22-23)?
- 12. Which of the 9 by-products of the Spirit life seem most difficult for you to experience and why (vs. 22-23)?

Day 5: Read Galatians 5:24-26, Romans 6:6-7 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 13. Explain your only hope against your sinful nature, according to v. 24 and Romans 6:6-7.
- 14. Describe what you think it means to "keep in step with the Spirit" (v. 25)? List practical ways you can experience this.
- 15. How does v. 26 fit this week's lesson about living by the Spirit?

Day 6: Review Galatians 5 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 16. What is the most significant lesson you learned from Galatians 5?
- 17. Write a prayer asking God to help you "keep in step with the Spirit."

Lesson 7: Galatians 6

Warmup

• What interested you the most about the lecture on Galatians 6?

Day 1: Read Galatians 6:1-5, Romans 12:3, 2 Corinthians 10:12 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 1. Who is equipped to restore another Christian caught in sin? Why is the warning needed? State your understanding of "carry each other's burdens" (vs. 1-2).
- 2. What do you learn from v. 3 and Romans 12:3?
- 3. How can you apply the principle being taught in v. 4 and 2 Corinthians 10:12?

Day 2: Read Galatians 6:6-8 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 4. Explain the meaning of v. 6.
- 5. Why is it that "God cannot be mocked" (v. 7)?

6. The principle of "reaping what you sow" is addressed in vs. 7-8. What does it mean and how can you apply this principle?

Day 3: Read Galatians 6:9-10, 2 Chronicles 15:7, Matthew 11:28 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

7. What do you learn about "quitting" from v. 9 and the cross references?

2 Chronicles 15:7

Matthew 11:28

- 8. When have you considered quitting something good but continued by perseverance?
- 9. Why is it important to "do good" to everyone, especially believers in Jesus (v. 10)?

Day 4: Read Galatians 6:11-18 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- Give some final thoughts Paul relays to the Galatian church about circumcision (vs. 12-16).
- 11. What "body marks" did Paul prioritize over the mark of circumcision (v. 17)?

12. Explain the significance of Paul's ending in his letter to the Galatians (v. 18).

Day 5: Review Galatians 6 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 13. What is the most significant thing you learned from your study of chapter 6?
- 14. How will you apply what you learned?

Day 6: Review Book of Galatians [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 15. What impacted you most about the Book of Galatians and why?
- 16. State something new you learned from your study of Galatians.
- 17. How will your fellowship with Jesus be improved because of your study of this book?

Triangle Bible Study Lesson 8: Ephesians Overview

Introduction: The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to Christ followers in Ephesus while he was imprisoned in Rome. Paul was close to the Ephesians. About a year after planting this church he went back to live and minister there for 3 years (Acts 19:1-20). Paul intended for his letter to be an encouragement to move forward in their faith rather than a rebuke for getting "off track."

Warmup

• How did the lecture overview of Ephesians encourage you to study this book?

Day 1: Read Ephesians 1 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 1. Write down the blessings from God mentioned in vs. 1-14?
- 2. What did Paul pray for the Ephesian Christians (vs. 17-23)?
- 3. What new lesson or principle did you learn from reading Chapter 1, and how will you apply it to your life?

Day 2: Read Ephesians 2 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 4. Describe one's condition prior to knowing Christ, and how that condition can be changed (vs. 1-10).
- 5. Why should Gentiles rejoice after reading vs. 11-22?

6. Whether you are from Jew or Gentile descent, write a prayer thanking God for what you have learned in chapter 2. (Make it personal.)

Day 3: Read Ephesians 3 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 7. Underline the word "mystery" in vs. 1-13. How is the mystery explained in v. 6?
- 8. What do you learn about the heart of Paul from his prayer in vs. 14-21?
- 9. As you consider Paul's prayer for the Ephesians in vs. 14-21, who do you know that would benefit from your praying for them in a similar way? (Be specific with your answer.)

Day 4: Read Ephesians 4 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 10. Make a list of words or phrases Paul uses that describes unity (vs. 1-16).
- 11. How can you be unified better with the body of Christ (the Church)?
- 12. What is most convicting to you (and why) from reading about living in the light (vs. 17-32)?

Day 5: Read Ephesians 5 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 13. Paul gives the Ephesians over 20 exhortations or warnings in vs. 1-21. (An exhortation is a statement emphatically urging someone to take a particular course of action.) Which of these exhortations or warnings impact you the most and why?
- 14. What do you learn about the marriage relationship from vs. 22-33?

Day 6: Read Ephesians 6 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 15. How will you apply anything you learned from vs. 1-9?
- 16. List the items constituting the "full armor of God" and tell why this armor is critical for the Christ follower.

17. Write down everything you learn about Tychicus from vs. 21-22.

Lesson 9: Ephesians 1

Warmup

• Explain how listening to the Ephesians 1 lecture helped you.

Day 1: Read Ephesians 1:1-2 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 1. Under whose authority did Paul write the letter to the Ephesians? What characteristic did Paul say was demonstrated by the recipients of this letter (v. 1)?
- 2. How would you define or describe "faithful in Christ Jesus?" Explain whether you would include yourself as one "faithful in Christ Jesus" (v. 1).
- 3. What does Paul offer the Ephesians in v. 2? Describe the significance of Paul's greeting.

Day 2: Read Ephesians 1:3-14 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 4. Count the number of times your see "in Him" or "in Christ" (vs. 3-14). How is this foundational when considering the blessings of God?
- 5. Explain your understanding of "blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ" (v. 3).

6. What do you learn about God's grace in vs. 6-8? How have you experienced God's grace? Be specific.

Day 3: Review Ephesians 1:3-14 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

(As you read through these scriptures again, consider who you are "in Christ.")

- 7. Make a list of statements declaring your identity "in/by Christ." (Examples: I am chosen by Christ. I am holy and blameless in Christ.)
- 8. From the list you made in Question 7, which is hardest for you to accept and why? Write a prayer asking Jesus to help you accept this blessing from Him.
- 9. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit in vs. 13-14?

Day 4: Read Ephesians 1:15-23 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 10. How might your prayer life be strengthened from what you learn from Paul's prayer?
- 11. What did Paul request from God for the Ephesian believers (v. 17-18)? Why do you believe Paul made this a priority in his prayer for them?

Day 5: Review Ephesians 1:15-23, Acts 2:24, Colossians 2:11-12, Hebrews 13:20 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 12. Record Paul's focus in vs. 19-23.
- 13. How was God's power and authority demonstrated (vs. 20-23)?
- 14. What do you learn about resurrection power from the following cross references?

Acts 2:24

Colossians 2:11-12

Hebrews 13:20

Day 6: Review Ephesians 1 [Open NIV] [Open NKJV]

- 15. What is your takeaway from Chapter 1?
- 16. How will you apply something you learned from Chapter 1?