

THE BOOK OF

# Galatians

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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CREATED BY STEVE CASE

# Straight from God

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Who do you trust for information and experiences about God?

## READ Galatians 1:1–24.

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### 1. What authority does Paul have to write this letter to the Galatians?

- A. God told Paul to write it.
- B. Paul is an apostle.
- C. He received the endorsement of the Jerusalem leaders.
- D. His Damascus Road experience.
- E. Paul had a lot of pen pals.
- F. He started the Christian Churches in Galatia.
- G. The need to stop heresy.
- H. Paul received his religious input directly from God.
- I. Other.

### 2. “Grace and peace to you from God the Father and Jesus Christ” means:

- A. It’s like saying, “Happy Sabbath,” or “God bless.”
- B. This was the code used to identify yourself as a follower of Jesus.
- C. “Grace” is the NT key word, and “Peace” is the OT key word.
- D. Paul makes sure that Jesus gets put in the same category as God.
- E. It’s important to identify the source of grace and peace.
- F. Apostles have the power to pass these along.
- G. Jesus is just a conduit for God the Father.
- H. These are supernatural gifts from God that Paul highly values.
- I. Other.

### 3. Why does Paul get agitated about new Gospel interpretations (vs. 6-g)?

- A. He had ego issues.
- B. There’s only one true Gospel.
- C. It wasn’t exactly the same thing Paul had taught.
- D. It was the opposite of what Paul had taught.
- E. It put religious practice higher than religious belief.
- F. It put religious belief higher than religious practice.
- G. It wasn’t based on Jesus.
- H. He was conservative, and this “new Gospel” was liberal.
- I. Other.

**4. What is the Gospel?**

- A. Jesus.
- B. Any “good news” (Greek: *euangelion*).
- C. Jesus died for your sins.
- D. Jesus provides power to live a godly life.
- E. Jesus will return.
- F. Eternal life is in Jesus.
- G. God loves you.
- H. Any message from God.
- I. Other.

**5. To what extent are your beliefs and practices affected by your past?**

- A. To a large extent I have continued in the way I’ve been reared.
- B. I had to leave my early upbringing in order to find Jesus for myself.
- C. It’s been a journey with a variety of changes.
- D. Each generation must find God for itself.
- E. We build on the shoulders of those who went before us.
- F. I’m an Adventist because I grew up as an Adventist.
- G. My background provided a foundation; I’ve built on that.
- H. I hardly ever think about it.
- I. Other.

**6. How committed are you to your religion?**

- A. I’m more “spiritual” than “religious.”
- B. Deep down, I’m very committed.
- C. I can’t imagine myself being anything else.
- D. I’m very involved in the life of the church.
- E. Each religion has its problems, but this is the best I’ve found.
- F. I find that I need to make periodic commitments to keep it alive.
- G. You could say that I’m a “cultural Adventist.”
- H. Other.

**7. Over your lifetime, how has your understanding of the Gospel changed?**

**8. How do you determine which version of the Gospel to believe?**

# Are You Okay?

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## OPENING QUESTION

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How can you tell that someone is an Adventist?

### READ Galatians 2:1–21.

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**1. What is the Gospel to the Gentiles (vs. 2) vs. the Gospel to the Jews?**

- A. There's no difference.
- B. Gentiles don't need to be circumcised.
- C. For Jews, Jesus is the Messiah.
- D. For Gentiles, Jesus is the Savior.
- E. Gentiles have no hang ups about the Jewish system and culture.
- F. Jesus fulfills everything in Judaism for the Jews.
- G. The Gospel is the same, but it needs cultural context.
- H. Gentiles appreciate a loving God; Jews want a powerful God.
- I. Other.

**2. What would have happened if the evangelistic teams were paired as: Paul and Peter; Barnabas and John; Titus and James?**

- A. It would be no different.
- B. It wouldn't work—mixing Gentile evangelists with Jewish evangelists.
- C. There's no way of knowing since it didn't happen that way.
- D. Such teams would have a Jewish emphasis or a Gentile emphasis.
- E. The New Testament writings would be different.
- F. God would have sent more revelations.
- G. That would be like teaming a non-SDA with an SDA.
- H. Other.

**3. What do you do differently when people from your church are around?**

- A. Nothing.
- B. Nothing that I'm aware of.
- C. Everything.
- D. Some things; but they aren't really important.
- E. I'm on my best behavior.
- F. I talk differently.
- G. I eat or drink differently.
- H. It just feels different.
- I. Other.

**4. What are some of your blind spots with fellow believers?**

- A. I don't have any blind spots.
- B. How would I know?
- C. It's easy for me to talk "Adventese."
- D. Expecting fellow believers to think the same way I do.
- E. Sometimes I refer to "us" and "them."
- F. A feeling of being God's special people.
- G. Being confident that we have "the truth."
- H. A sense that we need to convert non-Adventists into Adventists.
- I. Other.

**5. What does it mean to "die to the law" (vs. 19)?**

- A. Give up on trying to perfectly follow every item in the law.
- B. Crucify the drive to earn salvation by obedience.
- C. Give up on trying to obey God.
- D. Replace obedience to the law with Christ's forgiveness.
- E. Change my focus from law to Christ.
- F. Copy Jesus rather than the written codes of conduct.
- G. Keep the law as a guide but not as a means of salvation.
- H. Other.

**6. Why does Paul sound so opposed to the law?**

- A. Paul has his own issues.
- B. Some people rely on the law instead of relying on Christ.
- C. Those promoting the law wormed their way into churches.
- D. Paul really wasn't opposed to the law; that's just how some read it.
- E. This was an issue only in the province of Galatia.
- F. The law hasn't saved anyone; but Jesus does.
- G. The law gives an external illusion of clarity, control, and limits.
- H. Other.

**7. Do you sense that you are called to share Jesus with the "circumcised" or with the "uncircumcised" (or both)?**

**8. Paraphrase or explain *verse 20*:**

# How Faith Really Works

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Share a time you were **not** treated the way you deserved to be treated.

## READ Galatians 3:1—29.

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### 1. When did you receive the Spirit into your life?

- A. No specific time or event, but I'm sure the Spirit is in my life.
- B. There was a specific moment when this happened.
- C. The day I got baptized.
- D. I'm not certain that I have received the Spirit.
- E. Each time I experience a spiritual revival.
- F. Must have been before I noticed some "fruits of the Spirit" in my life.
- G. From my birth (*Luke 1:15*).
- H. When I was "born again" (*John 3:5-6*).
- I. Other.

### 2. What is "our part" in the relationship we have with God?

- A. Just believe.
- B. Just trust.
- C. Just obey.
- D. Fight against our sinful nature.
- E. I don't know; this has been a struggle for me.
- F. Serve others.
- G. Spend time with God so the relationship thrives.
- H. Change/Replace bad habits with good habits.
- I. Other.

### 3. Are you a child of Abraham?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. Ishmael or Isaac?
- D. By faith I am.
- E. Through baptism I have become a child of Abraham.
- F. I'm a recipient of the promises given to Abraham.
- G. I'm a child of God.
- H. Father Abraham had many sons, and many sons had...
- I. Other.

**4. Why did God give the law to his people?**

- A. Give them guidance.
- B. Set expectations for the relationship he wanted with them.
- C. Reveal their need for a Savior—Jesus.
- D. Provide details about how far short we come compared to the ideal.
- E. Show how powerful sin is.
- F. Set the bar impossibly high, except for Jesus.
- G. Serve as a guardian until Christ came.
- H. I've wondered this many times myself.
- I. Other.

**5. Do you follow God's law?**

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. I try to.
- D. I try really, really hard to.
- E. Sort of.
- F. The motive is more important than the actions.
- G. Actions speak louder than words.
- H. Other.

**6. Where have you found it doesn't matter who you are (Jew/Gentile, slave/free, male/female, old/young, ethnicity, etc.)—you are "one in Christ"?**

- A. I haven't found this to be my reality anywhere.
- B. At my church.
- C. In my house.
- D. At the Christian school.
- E. At my place of work.
- F. On a short-term mission trip.
- G. I don't think I'll truly experience this until heaven.
- H. When I get pulled over by a police officer.
- I. Other.

**7. What do you see is the relationship between faith and law?**

**8. How does one "clothe" one's self with Christ (vs. 27)?**

# Whose Child is This?

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What's one thing you've inherited by genetics? By your environment?

## READ Galatians 4:1–31.

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### 1. When do you inherit what God has for you?

- A. When I accept Jesus as my Savior.
- B. When Christ died for me.
- C. At Christ's Second Coming.
- D. When the Holy Spirit enters my life.
- E. I have it now, but I tend to forget that.
- F. Currently I have only a down payment; the rest comes later.
- G. I'm not even sure what the inheritance includes.
- H. Inherited by faith or by sight?
- I. Other.

### 2. What makes God your *Abba* (Daddy, vs. 6)?

- A. I must be born into God's family.
- B. I must be adopted into God's family.
- C. Intimacy.
- D. When my relationship with God is personal.
- E. It seems like I have to release my parents' version of God.
- F. I have to be able to speak Aramaic (*Abba*).
- G. This came to me in a whole new way once I became a parent.
- H. God doesn't seem like an *Abba* to me.
- I. Other.

### 3. What do you do that God likes?

- A. Everything.
- B. Nothing.
- C. I make financial contributions.
- D. Serve others.
- E. Help at church and/or school.
- F. Spend time with God.
- G. Obey.
- H. Forgive others quickly and abundantly.
- I. Other.



**4. What angst do you have for young people's relationship with God?**

- A. They can be so immature.
- B. They just don't get it.
- C. Young people today aren't enough like me.
- D. Young people today are too much like me.
- E. I can't always be there to guide or protect them.
- F. They have to find God for themselves.
- G. I understand my own parents' angst better now.
- H. Young people today seem to have it together better than I did.
- I. Other.

**5. In which ways are you persecuted (vs. 29)?**

- A. Oh, nobody knows the trouble I've seen . . .
- B. People tease me.
- C. My life mirrors 2 *Corinthians* 11:23-28.
- D. I had a hang nail once, and it really, really hurt.
- E. Church politics.
- F. I've experienced financial and professional setbacks for Christ.
- G. I've been called names (like "conservative" or "liberal").
- H. Other.

**6. Which metaphors about God's covenants resonate with you?**

- A. Old and New.
- B. Hagar and Sarah.
- C. Obedience and Faith.
- D. Slave and Free.
- E. Stone and Flesh.
- F. Law and Grace.
- G. External and Internal.
- H. Other.

**7. Are you "free from the law"? Explain.**

**8. Put an "X" where you are on the continuum below:**

*I am a child of the:*

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**SLAVE  
WOMAN**

**FREE  
WOMAN**

# The Look of Freedom

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Do you prefer a posted speed limit or the concept to drive a safe speed?

## READ Galatians 5:1–26.

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### 1. From what has Christ set you free?

- A. My past.
- B. A constant battle between good and evil.
- C. A life focused on do's and don'ts.
- D. Everyone else's expectations for me.
- E. Perfectionism.
- F. Being dominated by church culture.
- G. Being dominated by my sinful nature.
- H. Obedience to the law.
- I. Other.

### 2. What “yoke of slavery” could easily wrap its arms around you?

- A. The relatively good reputation I've earned.
- B. Limiting my religious life to things I'm able to manage well.
- C. Legalism.
- D. Doing my own thing because I'm now free from the law.
- E. Circumcision.
- F. Shaping my life to fit the expectations of religious people.
- G. Doing more things for God rather than simply being with God.
- H. Following the 10 commandments more than following Christ.
- I. Other.

### 3. What's the difference: “Living by the law” or “living by the Spirit”?

- A. It's just a matter of semantics.
- B. The law is in stone and the Spirit is in the heart.
- C. The law spells things out; with the Spirit it's sort of nebulous.
- D. Mind versus heart (thoughts versus feelings).
- E. Source of motivation.
- F. “Thou shalt not” versus “Thou shalt.”
- G. Clear lines of demarcation versus multiple applications of principles.
- H. Following traditions compared to finding new ways to live for Christ.
- I. Other.

**4. What is God's call to live in freedom?**

- A. Live in America.
- B. Not think or worry about obeying God.
- C. Release obedience to God's rules in order to live by the Spirit.
- D. Be able to sing at the end of your life: "I Did It My Way."
- E. Not be dominated by my sinful nature.
- F. No longer living by all of the codes previously established.
- G. Focus on doing good rather than focusing on not doing bad.
- H. Other.

**5. How would you sum up the whole law?**

- A. Yuck!
- B. Thank you, Lord.
- C. The 10 commandments.
- D. The Sermon on the Mount.
- E. Everything God has said.
- F. Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God.
- G. Love your neighbor as yourself.
- H. Love God and love others.
- I. Other.

**6. How much conflict do you have between your sinful nature and the Spirit's desires within you?**

- A. None.
- B. It's perpetual.
- C. I struggled more with this in the past than I do now.
- D. The sinful nature is a bigger issue for adolescents.
- E. Only when I think about it.
- F. Sometimes one wins, and at other times the other one wins.
- G. I can't always tell which one is which.
- H. Other.

**7. What desires has the Spirit put within you?**

**8. How will you follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of your life?**

# Boomerang

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Agree or disagree: “What goes around, comes around.” Give an example.

## READ Galatians 6:1–18.

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### 1. What are the most common sins within the church?

- A. We don't have visible sins in my church.
- B. Hypocrisy.
- C. Pride.
- D. Sexual sin.
- E. Gossip.
- F. Selfishness (ego-centrism).
- G. Looking good on Sabbath, but not on other days of the week.
- H. Comparing ourselves with others.
- I. Other.

### 2. What's a good way to “bear each other's burdens” (vs. 2)?

- A. Donate financial assistance.
- B. Provide a listening ear.
- C. Stand up for another person and fight for them if necessary.
- D. It's usually not worth it.
- E. Consistently work out with weights at a health club.
- F. Whatever you do, do it gently and with humility.
- G. Pray for people who definitely need it.
- H. Build teamwork.
- I. Other.

### 3. What have you sown so far?

- A. A mixed bag of good and bad.
- B. I've given a lot of myself at work.
- C. spurts of major investment in family; followed by coasting.
- D. Financial investments.
- E. Spiritual growth through intentional discipleship.
- F. Personal relationship development.
- G. Physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle.
- H. My own bag of “wild oats.”
- I. Other.

**4. What have you reaped so far?**

- A. Not much.
- B. I'm expecting a pretty big payout in heaven.
- C. More than I've sown.
- D. An incredible spouse and family.
- E. Not what I expected.
- F. More friends than I can handle.
- G. If things don't change I'm going to feel ripped off.
- H. I feel stuck where I've sown because that's the only place I can reap.
- I. I'm waiting for more growth before making a final assessment.
- J. Other.

**5. What competes with you "glorying only in the cross of Christ" (vs. 14)?**

- A. Nothing.
- B. Everything.
- C. Work.
- D. Family.
- E. Sports.
- F. Me.
- G. My accomplishments.
- H. My reputation.
- I. Other.

**6. How does "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all" happen (vs. 18)?**

- A. It just does.
- B. It's all up to God.
- C. It happens individually.
- D. It happens collectively.
- E. You have to ask for it.
- F. Saying it repeatedly.
- G. It's there, but it might not be appropriated.
- H. Other.

**7. What sin are you most susceptible to? What person could help you?**

**8. When do you take action on the "opportunity to do good" (vs. 10)?**

