

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

Reading the Bible Through the Gospel

(Gal. 4:21-31)

Pastor John Mahaffey

Sunday, April 22, 2018

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions
or family or personal devotions*

1. Read through the passage. How are the Galatians spiritually confused? What are the dangers to being “spiritually confused”?
2. Paul writes to those who specifically “want to be under the law” and invites them to consider the logical outcome of their position. Why is physical descent from Abraham of itself irrelevant?
3. In these verses Paul uses Genesis 16 as an allegory. Read Genesis 16 to familiarize yourself with the story.
4. Paul is saying that it’s who your mother is that counts. In his allegory, what do Hagar and Sarah stand for?
5. In Galatians 4:24 the Bible refers to Hagar as representing the covenant from Mt. Sinai where the children born represent slavery. Who are the current day descendents of Hagar and how are they slaves today?
6. In regards to the question of whether you are an Ishmael or an Isaac, read Luke 18:9-14. Please summarize in your own words what characterizes an Ishmael and what characterizes an Isaac? Reflect on why do we often gravitate towards being an Ishmael?
7. What is the difference between the two Jerusalems in Gal. 4:25-26? Reference Matt.23:37 as well.

8. What is the point of Paul's quotation of Isaiah 54:1 in verse 27 and his quote of Genesis 21:10-12 in verse 30? Where does grace come into this story?

9. Read Proverbs 14:12. What does this ancient passage tell us about our ability to trust what we think will save us? Why are we inclined to try to save ourselves by following a set of rules?

10. There is a famous quote that "the greatest trick that the devil ever pulled was convincing the world that he didn't exist." This seems to be supported by what Pastor John said at the end of his message, when he spoke of how there are really only two religions in the world. He said that the false religion says that you make it to heaven if you are good. The true religion says that we make it to heaven only by accepting that we need Christ's saving grace because we are not good. Read 2 Corinthians 11:12-15 and discuss the following:
 - a. How were the false teachers in Galatians being used in a similar way to what is described in the passage from 2 Corinthians and in the quote above?
 - b. Why is it so easy for the devil and his servants to "masquerade as servants of righteousness" and thus trick us?

11. Paul mentions persecution in verse 29. In what ways were the Galatians being persecuted by those "born in the ordinary way?" In your experience can you recount how it was religious people that have opposed your faith in Christ?

12. What can we learn from these verses about understanding the Old Testament writings?

Prayer Items:

1. Give God praise and pray for those who have made Jesus the Lord of their life lately, in our church.

2. Pray for the 16 confirmed individuals planning to be baptized soon.

3. Pray for those in our church who have lost loved ones lately.