

Weekly 4G Guide

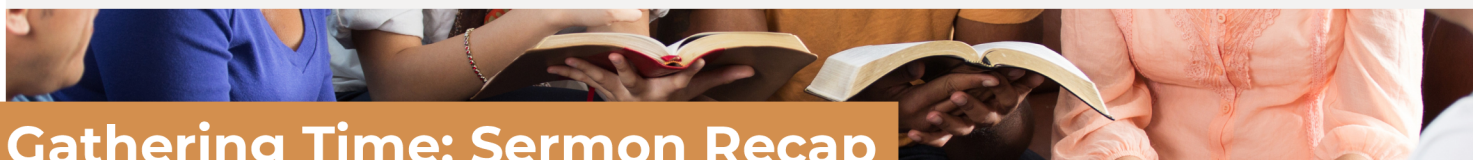
How to Use This Guide:

- **Read the Sermon Recap** by yourself (for devotions) or with your group. You can also watch the sermon on YouTube @CBCFamily.
- **Read the passage/s.** Look for truths, promises, and/or commands. Try to find the “who, what, when, where, why, and how.”
- **Group Time:** First, take turns reading the Scripture passage/s from the sermon, round-robin style, letting each person read one verse. Go around the circle until the whole passage has been read. Then, **utilize the Group Time** portion of this 4G Guide.

What's a 4G? A guide that covers:

1. Gathering Time (Sunday morning)
2. Group Time (for group meetings)
3. God Times (personal and family devotions)
4. Give Time (a prompt for reflection)

- **Personal God Time:** Use these each day to dive into the passages further and challenge yourself to apply the texts.
- **Family God Time:** Use these each week to dive into the passages with your family.
- **Give Time:** Ask your group, yourself, or your family what might be a good response to the sermon or text? How are you inspired to give of your time, talent, or treasure?



Gathering Time: Sermon Recap

Galatians - Series Introduction

Today, Greg gave his first sermon in a new series on the Book of Galatians. He preached from Galatians 1:1-9 and gave us some background and context to help us better understand this letter that Paul wrote to the Galatian Believers.

The Galatian churches were in a self-made dilemma. They had erroneously added works to the true gospel, setting aside the truth that salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone. Since this epistle was most likely the earliest written, it shows that right from the earliest days of Christianity, Paul wanted to emphasize just how important this message is: Jesus-plus-nothing-else is who saves us!

The Galatians were foolishly adding obedience to the Jewish laws, namely circumcision, as a necessity for salvation. (Adding works to the gospel is called legalism. It creates a false gospel that depends on mankind; that is *not* good news!) Paul was astonished at the Galatians' quick departure from the true gospel of grace. He wrote to set them straight.

Like the Galatians, we can often view our faith as a series of to-do's. We can look to good works as a means of earning righteousness. But this way of thinking is opposed to the gospel of grace! Yes, we should do good works because God created us for them, but it does not save us or earn grace. Instead, we do what's good and right *because we love God*.

To guard against error, we must check everything against God's Word—even our own thoughts and prayers. How? We need to learn and use God's Word! Understanding the truth will then free us from both legalism and sin. It also helps us not abuse grace.

Paul told the Galatians, and therefore warns us: we must not turn away from the freedom of the gospel toward the slavery of legalism. Christ has set us free.

Do you add to the gospel? Don't. Like the Galatians, you can be set free from trying to earn righteousness. Christ has earned it for you. Rest in His love, grace, and peace today!

Group Time: Questions

Conversation Starter

Ask: Have you added something to a recipe that you shouldn't have? What was result?

Discussion Questions

Choose a track, mix and match, or do them all.

- **Track 1:** What is the main point of the Book of Galatians? What error was Paul setting out to correct?
- What is the true gospel? (See John 3:16; Eph 2:4-10; and Rom 11:16)
- Why is important to understand that we have no role in earning salvation? Who ONLY can accomplish freeing us from the eternal effects of sin? Does He need our help?

- **Track 2:** What are some reasons why people might struggle to accept grace?
- Most people tend to either struggle to receive grace or struggle not to abuse it. What is your tendency? (Pray for one another about this.)
- How would you briefly explain the true gospel? Who will you share it with?

- **Track 3:** What false gospels exist today?
- How important is it to check everything against the Word of God? Why? How can you do this?
- How can you rest in the love, grace, and peace of Christ, yet still position yourself for fruitful holiness?



God Time: Personal

Use the sermon notes from our Gathering Time this week for your personal time with God. Use a spare notebook or your favorite device to journal your responses. Include prayer and application in your time with God!

- **Monday:** Read Gal 1:1-2. The apostles had complete, God-given authority over the early church. How was Paul an apostle?
- **Tuesday:** Read Gal 1:3-5. What two words in verse 3 does Paul extend to the Galatian church? Why are these words so important, considering the dilemma?
- **Wednesday:** Read Gal 1:6. Who/what were the Galatians deserting? How does that touch your heart? Pray about this.
- **Thursday:** Read Gal 1:6-9. Underline the beginning of verse 7. How is "another gospel" not good news? Journal about it.
- **Friday:** Reread Gal 1:1-9. Pray through this passage. Ask God to reveal any areas where you might be trying to earn righteousness. Confess and repent.



God Time: Family

Parents: Familiarize yourself with sermon recap from our Gathering Time. Sum it up in a way your child can understand.

- Consider **reading** Galatians 1:6-7 aloud from an easy version like the ERV.
- Give a **summary** statement like, "A man named Paul started churches in an area called Galatia. He wrote them a letter when he found out they weren't following Jesus the way they should be. He wanted to help them follow Jesus the right way! Paul wanted them to know the grace and peace that Jesus gives. Jesus gives grace!"
- **Ask:** Do you know what grace is?
- **Say:** Grace is kindness that we don't earn.
- **Activity:** Write the word "grace" on a few small notecards. Choose an adult to lead the game "Simon Says." If someone makes a mistake, the leader gives them a "grace card." Compare grace to the kindness of not being eliminated in the game. Thank the Lord together for the grace He gives.

Give: *How does this week's sermon inspire you to give of your time, talent, or treasure?*