

ECC Growth Groups – Term 2, 2014
Study 5 – Galatians 3:19-4:11

Divide your group into three smaller groups and give each one a piece of paper with one of the following three scenarios:

- i) You are in prison – You are free
- ii) You are a slave – You are a son
- iii) You are a child – You are an adult

Get each group to discuss the following question:

What are some of the differences between the two people in your scenario?

Bring the groups back together and have them share what they discussed with the other groups.

Read Galatians 3:19-4:11.

Think back to our previous studies. Why do you think Paul starts this passage with a question about the purpose of the law?

How does Paul answer his own question about the purpose of the law?

In verse 21 Paul is careful to not be misunderstood. The law is certainly *not* opposed to God's promises, he says. In the rest of the chapter he uses three images to help the Galatians further understand the relationship between law and promise and how this relates to them and their situation.

Split your group into three smaller groups that will each focus on one of the following scenarios:

- i) A prisoner and a free person (3:22-23)
- ii) A slave and a son (3:26; 4:3-7; 4:8)
- iii) A child and an adult (3:24-25; 4:1-3)

Have each group read the relevant sections of the passage that refer to their particular scenario and, using these, work together on a creative way of communicating what the passage says. If they need prompting, here are some suggestions:

- i) A short drama
- ii) A drawing
- iii) A timeline
- iv) A flow chart/logic diagram

When the groups have had sufficient time, bring them back together to share their creativity with the larger group.

Hand out a small piece of paper (e.g. A5 size) to each person. Give group members around 5 minutes to personally reflect and write down some thoughts on the following question:

What surprised you about what Paul said in your scenario?

Invite members to share their personal reflections with the group.

Remember again the situation that Paul is addressing in Galatians. Why might Chapter 3 verse 28 be a precious truth to the Galatians?

The Gospel has given the Galatians a new identity. This has been powerfully communicated through the images that Paul has used in this passage. How does this help us make sense of his astonishment and disappointment at the end of the passage?

In what ways are we in danger of going down the same path as the Galatians?

How does our new Gospel identity help us to respond in these situations?