

## Deep Roots| Galatians 4:21-5:16 May 11th and 12th, 2024

### My Story Questions

*These questions/activities help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion.*

- 1) It is Mother's Day weekend. How did God use your mother to shape who you are today?
- 2) If you could give any advice to your younger self at any age, what would you say?

### Study Questions

*Complete these questions for your own personal preparation to lead, but choose only some to discuss.*

#### **Big Idea - Living Gospel-centered ignites our freedom to love people**

**Warm-up questions:** How are we free to love differently from how the world loves?  
Which *Live it Out* question impacted you the most this week?

#### **Read Galatians 4:21-5:1     Principle #1 - God's story points to our freedom in Christ**

- 1) Paul uses the story of Abraham's wife and maidservant to create an illustration. What was the point of the allegory? Why would the Jews have found this illustration shocking?
- 2) Which contrast helps you best understand your identity with Jesus? (Fill in the blanks with your group)
  - a) Slave woman vs. \_\_\_\_ (*free*) woman
  - c) Earthly Jerusalem vs. Jerusalem \_\_\_\_ (*above*)
  - b) Born of flesh vs. born of \_\_\_\_ (*Spirit*)
  - d) Covenant of law vs. covenant of \_\_\_\_ (*promise*)
- 3) What does it mean to have freedom in Christ? What does that look like?
- 4) What does it look like to submit again to a "yoke of slavery"?
- 5) What kinds of things can you do to stand firm in your freedom with Christ?

#### **Read Galatians 5:2-12     Principle #2 - Our Freedom is found in new life in the Spirit through faith**

- 6) Paul argues if you go back to some laws, you are obligated to them all. How is slavery to laws different from obedience to the Spirit? How is it similar?
- 7) As followers of Jesus, we are now 'free' to live the Spirit-filled life. How does this contrast to our cultural understanding of "freedom"? Where do you struggle between personal freedom and gospel freedom?

#### **Read Galatians 5:13-15     Principle #3 - Freedom propels us forward to Love people**

- 8) How is the whole law summed up, and what is the reason for our freedom in Christ?
- 9) What role has the Spirit played in enabling you to love someone unconditionally?
- 10) Summarize in your own words the core message. How does that play out in our lives?
- 11) When have you seen "freedom in Christ" used to excuse selfishness rather than propel love?
- 12) Is there a key verse in this passage that speaks to you? Why?

### Responding to Jesus

*Offer one of these for personal reflection before your group prayer time. Practice listening for God's voice.*

- 1) Ask Jesus, "(Who/Where/How) are you calling me to the freedom to love?"
- 2) Ask Jesus, "What do you want me to learn about you?"