

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Galatians 4:1-31

Lesson 7

One of the tragedies of legalism is that it gives the appearance of spiritual maturity when, in reality, it leads the believer back into slavery. Using the analogy of Hagar and Sarah as representatives of bondage and freedom, Paul stressed the relationship the believer has with God as His son (in our case, daughter). The adoption we have received came not the way a homeless child would enter a family, but by regeneration or being born-again into God's family, gaining a new standing with all the rights and privileges of sonship. May your study of Galatians 4 give you a new appreciation of being God's child.

DAY ONE: Read Galatians 4:1-10

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

- a. Galatians 4:1-10 has been divided into three paragraph divisions. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Galatians 4:1-7

Galatians 4:8-20

Galatians 4:21-31

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheets.

After titling each section, record a title for Chapter 4.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in previous lesson: *God, Jesus, Spirit, law, bondage, gospel, flesh, and promise*

New to this lesson: *bondwoman and freewoman*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Galatians 4:1-31. Remember, as you mark the words *God, Jesus, and Spirit*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

3. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used in verses 7 and 16. Mark these references on your Observation Worksheet. Choose one of them and record the conclusion that Paul made and what it was based upon.

4. Galatians 4 is a chapter of contrasts. Paul used the contrasting term *but* twelve times in this chapter (verses 2,4,7,8,9,14,17,18,23,26,29 and 31). Mark each reference on your Observation Worksheet. Choose one and record what is being contrasted.
5. Choose one of the key words from question 2 and record, by making a list, what the text reveals.

DAY TWO: Read Galatians 4:1-7

1. What does Galatians 4:1-3 teach us about the following:
the heir, as long as he is a child

when we were children
2. Galatians 4:4,5 is so gloriously powerful you will want it written on your mind and heart forever. Record each phrase from these verses that reveals what God did for us *when the fullness of time had come*.
 - a. Which of these is most extraordinary to you today?

Challenge: Briefly explain the meaning of the phrase *when the fullness of time had come*.

3. Consider the word *son* or *sons* in Galatians 4:6,7. Contrast the Galatians' relationship to God under the law with their relationship revealed in these verses because of God's redemptive work of Galatians 4:4,5. What do you see?
 - a. Meditate on this new intimate relationship as you rewrite the verse *because you are sons*, inserting your name.
 - 1.) What thoughts come to your mind?
 - b. List the awesome privileges revealed in Galatians 4:6,7 that are ours as *sons*.

DAY THREE: Read Galatians 4:8-11

1. Notice the word *then* in verse 8 and *now* in verse 9. What did Paul want the Galatians to see by directing their attention to this contrast?
 - a. What were they returning to according to Galatians 4:9?
 - b. Consider what they were turning away from by reviewing Galatians 4:4-7. What could cause a believer to abandon that which is glorious and powerful for that which is *weak and beggarly*?
2. Galatians 4:9 NIV reads: *But now that you know God – or rather are known by God – how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?* They were apparently observing certain Jewish practices from the law. What does Galatians 4:10 say they were doing?

Challenge: Explain the terms: *days, months, seasons, and years*.

3. *I am afraid for you, that my work for you has been wasted.* Galatians 4:11 NCV Why was Paul afraid for them?
 - a. Think of Paul, the pastor who faithfully endeavored to nurture these believers toward maturity through teaching the Word and praying for them. How might their actions have made him feel his labor was in *vain*?

DAY FOUR: Read Galatians 4:12-20

1. What does Galatians 4:12-20 reveal about:
Paul and his attitude toward the Galatians

The Galatians and their attitude toward Paul

2. Compare Paul's heart with the attitude of the false teachers as revealed in Galatians 4:17 NIV: *Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them.* What do you see?
 - a. Observe this version of Galatians 4:18 NIV: *It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always and not just when I am with you.* What does this verse teach us about being zealous?
3. How does Paul express his passion for these believers? Galatians 4:19
 - a. In what way can you relate to Paul's *labor in birth* for another?
4. Previously Paul used words that sounded stern and severe. How does this paragraph provide another view of Paul?

DAY FIVE: Read Galatians 4:21-31

1. In Galatians 4:21, what question did Paul ask those who wanted *to be under the law*?
2. Paul used the history of Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation, and the birth of his two sons to expose the fallacy of living *under the law*. The allegory he used is a factual story that teaches spiritual truth (Genesis 16:1-4; 21:1-21). Complete the following chart by writing what Galatians 4:22-30 reveals about each mother and her son:

HAGAR	SARAH
verse 22 bondwoman	freewoman
verse 23	
verse 24	
	verse 26
verse 29	verse 28
verse 30	

3. Notice the words *free* and *bond* (and their compound words) in this paragraph. What two things is Paul contrasting?
 - a. What spiritual applications did Paul make in Galatians 4:28-31?
4. What does being a child of *the free* mean to you personally?

DAY SIX: Review Galatians 4:1-31

1. Galatians 4:6,7 lists some awesome privileges we have as *sons of God*. What are some others?
2. *And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"* What is your favorite way to address God? Why?
3. If you were a Galatian Christian, how would you feel about learning of your position in God's family?
 - a. As a child of God, do you behave more like a *slave* or a *son*? Why?
4. Some of the Galatian believers were tempted to go back to their old ways of thinking. What are some of the *weak* and *beggarly elements* by which non-Christians live their lives today?
 - a. After experiencing salvation, why do some Christians return to their former ways of behaving or coping?
5. Share a way this lesson has impacted you.

*For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children.
And since we are his children, we will share his treasures—
for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, is ours, too.
But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.
- Romans 8:16-18 NLT*

