

# king's chapel

## Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of July 21, 2019

**This Week's Focus:** True and lasting freedom from sin is not achieved in strict obedience to the law but only by faith in Jesus Christ.

**This Week's Text:** Galatians 4:21-5:1

"Those who try to achieve the status of sons and heirs by the righteousness of the law or by their own righteousness are slaves, who will never receive the inheritance even though they work themselves to death with their great effort; for they are trying, contrary to the will of God, to achieve by their own works what God wants to grant believers by sheer grace for Christ's sake." **Martin Luther**

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- Share what the Holy Spirit has impressed on your heart and mind from this week's text. How has this passage realigned your thoughts, feelings, and actions with the truth of the gospel?
- Contrast living "under the law" (verse 21) with justification by faith alone in Christ alone. What does it mean to be enslaved to sin (John 8:34-44)? Who are the true sons of Abraham?
- Discuss how the gospel frees us from slavery to sin manifested by legalism (self-justification) and irreligion (blatant rebellion). How does God's moral law function as a relevant and necessary roadmap for righteous living?
- What is the historical account that Paul is alluding to (Genesis 15:1-6; 16; 21:1-7)? What promise did God make to Abraham? What did Abraham and Sarah do when they become impatient waiting for God to fulfill his promise?
- Use the grid below to discuss the meaning of Paul's allegory.

Allegorical Illustration	
Slave Woman	Free Woman
Spiritual Bondage	Spiritual Freedom
Ishmael (Born of the flesh)	Isaac (Born of the Spirit)
Fully Rejected	Wonderfully Accepted
Old Covenant	New Covenant
Earthly Jerusalem	New Heavenly Jerusalem
Judaizers: Justification = Faith + Works	The Gospel: Justification = Faith Alone in Christ Alone
Man's Way	God's Way

- What is Paul quoting in verse 27? What were the Israelites experiencing at the time of Isaiah's prophesy? How do you respond when you are trapped by your circumstances? Discuss how Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of Isaiah's prophesy and that resting in his atoning work is the only antidote to hopelessness.
- Like the Judaizers in Paul's day and Ishmael before them, why do legalists ridicule those who are saved by the Spirit (verse 29)? Are you trusting in your own self-effort for justification (slave to sin) or have you submitted yourself to Jesus Christ (slave to righteousness; Romans 6:16-23)?
- In what ways does this text encourage you to live on mission to declare and demonstrate the good news of Jesus Christ in your community?