



“God’s Kids”

Galatians 3-4

— Small Group Plan —

*The law was put in charge to lead us to Christ
that we might be justified by faith.
Now that faith has come,
we are no longer under the supervision of the law.*

— Galatians 3:24-25 —

For three chapters Paul has pleaded with the Galatians to not be caught in the performance trap. He has explained that the gospel they received was not a man-made gospel (1:11). The salvation they accepted was a product of God’s work, not mans (2:16). Even their ancient heroes depended upon the promise of God (3:6, 18).

And so, the purpose of the Law was to point to Jesus. As John Stott has written:

God intended the law to reveal sin and to drive men to Christ; Satan uses it to reveal sin and to drive men to despair. God meant the law as an interim step to man’s justification; Satan uses it as the final step to his condemnation.

— from *The Message of Galatians*

But mercifully, God stepped into history as the man Jesus and defeated Satan.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

— BECOMING GOD’S KIDS —

Galatians 3:26-29

²⁶ You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

- How did Jesus defeat Satan?
- What is the difference between understanding baptism as God’s work and seeing it as our work?
- How would you explain the “oneness” (v. 28) that overcomes race, social standing and gender?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— WHAT WE WERE—

Galatians 4:1-3

¹ What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. ² He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. ³ So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world.

- What do the mature son and the immature son have in common? What do the immature son and the slave have in common?
- Before Jesus came into the world why did humanity need the rigid parameters that were provided by the law?
- What are the “basic principles of the world” (v. 3)?

— WHAT GOD DID—

Galatians 4:4-5

⁴ But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵ to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

- How do you understand “when time had fully come” (v. 4)?
- Why was it important for Jesus to enter our world at the bottom of humanity (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13)?
- What are “the full rights of sons” (v. 5) and what has changed so that now they are available to us?

— WHAT WE ARE—

Galatians 4:6-7

⁶ Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

- How do the “Spirit” and the “Son” (v. 6) bring us divine status?
- “Abba” is the term Jesus used when he prayed in Gethsemane (Mark 14:36). How should this new language affect our prayers today?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Read through the list below which compares and contrasts the life of the slave and the son?
- Which of the contrasts is the most meaningful to you? Explain.

WHEN IT COMES TO		
THE SLAVE KNOWS		THE SON KNOWS
<i>Privileges and wages are clearly defined for my job</i>	RIGHTS	<i>Dad won't hold anything back from me if I ask him.</i>
<i>At the end of the day, I get what I've managed to earn</i>	INCOME	<i>At the end of the day, dad shares everything with me.</i>
<i>If I fail to do my job well, I will likely be beaten or kicked out</i>	SECURITY	<i>Whether or not I do well today, I know my daddy loves me.</i>
<i>That huge book is my Job description</i>	THE BIBLE	<i>A glimpse into dad's plans for me.</i>
<i>I can only approach the Master when called upon</i>	ACCESS	<i>I can talk to dad any time, day or night.</i>
<i>So long as I meet my quota, I'm safe</i>	PROTECTION	<i>So long as I stay close to my dad, he'll protect me.</i>
<i>If I'm lucky, I might get a bonus at the end of the year.</i>	INHERITANCE	<i>The family fortune will one day be mine.</i>
<i>I get a pat on the back from the master when I do well.</i>	BELONGING	<i>A get a hug from dad even when I mess up.</i>
<i>The quality of my work Defines who I am.</i>	IDENTITY	<i>I'm a chip off the old block. Dad and I have the same DNA</i>
<i>I had better measure up, or else.</i>	EXPECTATIONS	<i>Dad has great plans for me. I hope to grow into them.</i>
<i>I hope to be treated fairly.</i>	JUSTICE	<i>I'll be a treasured part of this family even when I don't deserve to be.</i>
<i>I'm the hired hand.</i>	STATUS	<i>I'm the apple of my father's eye.</i>
<i>I'm worth my daily wage.</i>	VALUE	<i>I'm priceless.</i>
<i>This is my work place.</i>	HOUSE	<i>Home sweet home!</i>
<i>I must cover up my mistakes so I will not be punished.</i>	FAILURE	<i>If I mess up, my dad will help me fix it.</i>

- What is the difference between fearing God and being afraid of God?
- Close in prayer, thanking God for making us sons and daughters.