

## ***STUDYING THE BOOK OF GALATIANS IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

### **Lesson 7 - Sons of God - Galatians 4:1-7**

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

**4** Now let me point out that as long as the son who has inherited his father's property is a child, he is treated no differently than a slave, even though he owns everything.

**2** He is constantly under the supervision of guardians and trustees until the time his father had previously set for him to take over the affairs of the estate.

**3** The same was true with us, when as infants in spiritual understanding, we were held in slavery by laws and rituals we thought could save us.

**4** But when the time that God had set for our coming of age finally arrived, He sent His Son to us. He was born of a woman, and was Himself subject to the laws of God.

**5** He came to save those who had broken God's laws, so that we might be adopted by God as His children.

**6** And because you are now His children, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, causing you to tenderly and affectionately cry out, "Abba, My Father!"

\*Gal. 4:6 – "Abba" is an Aramaic term used for intimacy and affectionate fondness. It was used by Jesus in Mark 14:36 and carries the idea of God being our "Daddy."

**7** So you are no longer treated as a slave, because you are now a child of God! And if a child of God, then you are also an heir of God, all because of what Christ has done for you.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

#### **Lesson 7 - Sons of God - Galatians 4:1-7**

87. How are those who live under the Law immature? ([4:1-2](#))
88. Before the Galatians became Christians, how were they like slaves? ([4:3](#))
89. How did the coming of Jesus perfectly satisfy the requirements of the Law? ([4:4-5](#))
90. How did the believers benefit by becoming part of God's family? ([4:5](#))
91. Whom did God send into the lives of the Galatian Christians? ([4:6](#))

92. How did the Spirit move the believers to address God? ([4:6](#))

93. Since the Galatians were no longer slaves, what had they become? ([4:7](#))

## Lesson 8 - Paul's Concern for the Galatians - [Galatians 4:8-20](#)

### *Paul's Concern for the Galatians*

8 As for you Gentiles who didn't know God, you were also slaves—slaves to those idols and gods who by their very nature could never be gods.

9 But now that you have come to know God—or rather, to realize that God knew and loved you—how can you even think of turning to the weak and bankrupt elementary rules of religion? Do you really want to be enslaved all over again?

10 You are now trying to gain God's friendship by paying special attention to religious days, months, seasons, and years.

11 I'm afraid for you! Can it be that all my hard work for you has been wasted effort?

12 My dear brothers and sisters! I beg you to look at the truth as I now see it, because I also once believed as you are coming to believe. It's not me you have wronged. You have never done that.

13 You will remember that the first time I brought the Great News to you, I spent quite some time with you because of the infirmity of my flesh.\*

\*Gal. 4:13 – “The infirmity of my flesh.” It was Paul’s first missionary trip to Galatia (Acts 14:1-10). Paul came to these people through the infirmity of his flesh. We have a hint of Paul’s appearance and physical condition from Acts 14:11-23.

14 But even though my infirmity was a great burden to you, you didn’t despise or reject me with contempt. You received me as if I were one of God’s angels; yes, as if I were Jesus Christ Himself.

15 So what’s happened to the great blessings you then rejoiced in? I’m a witness to the fact that if it had been possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.

16 Have I now become your enemy because I’m telling you the truth?

17 These other men are anxious to gain your friendship, but not for your good. What they want is to separate you from us, in order to get you to eagerly support them.

18 You were so right in your previous eagerness for the truth! But that’s an attitude that must continue always, and not be evident only when I’m with you.

19Oh, my dear children! You are forcing me to go through labor pains all over again, until Christ is formed in you.

20How I wish I could be with you now. The very tone in my message would be different than it was before. I'm truly perplexed and in doubt about you.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### **Lesson 8 - Paul's Concern for the Galatians - Galatians 4:8-20**

94. Before becoming Christians, to what were the Galatians enslaved? ([4:8](#))
95. After they became believers, how did the Galatians turn back to their paganism? ([4:9-10](#))
96. Why did these Christians go back to observing the Mosaic calendar? ([4:9-10](#))
97. How did Paul express his concern for the Galatians? ([4:11](#))
98. Why did Paul tell the Christians to follow his example? ([4:12](#))
99. What had been Paul's experience with the Galatian believers? ([4:12-14](#))
100. How had the Galatians esteemed Paul? ([4:15](#))
101. Why did the believers turn away from Paul? ([4:16](#))
102. What motivated the Judaizers to turn the Galatians against Paul? ([4:17](#))
103. What did Paul say in defense of zealousness? ([4:18](#))
104. How did Paul express his attitude toward the Galatians? ([4:19-20](#))
105. How did Paul want his "dear children" to change? ([4:19](#))
106. Why did Paul want to be with the believers? ([4:20](#))
107. After experiencing salvation through Christ, why do some Christians turn from the truth?

### **Lesson 9 - Hagar and Sarah - Galatians 4:21-31**

#### ***The Example of Hagar and Sarah***

21Listen to me, those of you who want to live under the Law: Aren't you aware of what the Law says?

22It says that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a woman who had always been free.\*

\*Gal. 4:22 – See Genesis 16:1-16; 18:1-15; 21:1-21.

23The son born to the slave woman was born in the usual way. But the son born to the free woman was born because God had promised he would be born.

24Symbolically, these women represent two agreements. Moses received one agreement from God at Mount Sinai, which gave birth to slavery to the Law. This is Hagar.

25Hagar represents not only the agreement given at Mount Sinai in Arabia, but she also corresponds to Jerusalem in Israel, which, together with her children, even today, live in slavery to the Law.

26But the Jerusalem in Heaven is free. And it's this Jerusalem that's the mother of all of us.\*

\*Gal. 4:26 – “The mother of all of us”\* ... all of us who believe in Christ for our right standing with God.

27Because it is written in the Scriptures:

“Rejoice, O childless woman who has been unable to bear children! Lift up your voice and shout for joy, you who never felt the pains of childbirth! Because the deserted wife will have more children than the one who now lives with the husband.” (**Isaiah 54:1**)

28Now my brothers and sisters, just like Isaac, we are children who have been born because of God’s promise.

29But the same thing is happening now that happened then: Those who have only natural birth are persecuting those who have been reborn spiritually by the Spirit of God.

\*Gal. 4:29 – “Those who have only natural birth are persecuting those who have been reborn spiritually by the Spirit of God,” or “Those who are born of God’s Spirit are persecuted by those who want us to keep the Jewish laws.”

30But again, what does the Scripture say?

“Send the slave woman and her son away, because the son of the slave woman shall never be an heir together with the son of the free woman!” (**Genesis 21:10**)

31Remember, dear friends, we are not children of the slave woman but of the one who is free!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### **Lesson 9 - Hagar and Sarah - Galatians 4:21-31**

108. Before the Galatians truly gave themselves over to the Law, what did Paul ask them to consider? ([4:21](#))
109. Why did Paul appeal to the example of Abraham? ([4:22](#))
110. What was the difference in status between Abraham's two sons? ([4:22](#))
111. How were Abraham's sons conceived? ([4:23](#))
112. How did Hagar represent the covenant at Mount Sinai? ([4:24](#))
113. How did Paul refer to the birth of Abraham's sons? ([4:24-27](#))
114. In what way did Hagar typify first-century Jerusalem? ([4:25](#))
115. How was Sarah an example of the "Jerusalem that is above"? ([4:26-27](#))
116. How did Paul apply an ancient prophecy to Sarah's history? ([4:27](#))
117. How were the Galatians like Isaac (the child of promise)? ([4:28](#))
118. How were the Judaizers like Ishmael (the child of slavery)? ([4:29](#))
119. Based on his illustration, how did Paul expect the Galatians to deal with the legalists? ([4:28-30](#))
120. How did Paul compare Ishmael's persecution of Isaac to the legalists' opposition to the Christians? ([4:29-30](#))
121. How did Paul align himself with the Galatians and Sarah? ([4:31](#))