

WEEK 5: CHAPTER 5

ABOUT THIS SERIES

In our *Galatians* series, St. Mark is walking verse-by-verse and chapter-by-chapter through Paul's letter to the Galatians to discover how an ancient manuscript like Galatians gives us timeless truths for today. Your group will go deeper into the series by learning about the cultural and scriptural context to Paul's letter.

ITEMS NEEDED

☐ Bibles

CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR GROUP ARRIVES

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|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for your group | <input type="checkbox"/> Read through the Discussion Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments (optional) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean meeting area | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean bathroom | <input type="checkbox"/> Crack front door |

OPENING (5 MIN)

After a general welcome, say: Icebreaker time! This one isn't fun, but it really highlights today's conversation—

RATE THE LAST SICKNESS YOU HAD ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 10, WITH 1 BEING “BARELY AN INCONVENIENCE” TO 10 BEING “PLEASE GOD, MAKE IT STOP”.

After a brief discussion, say: The reason we can get sick or hurt in the first place brings up our relationship with our flesh. Today in our Small Group we're going to look a bit deeper at our flesh according to Paul in Galatians 5 so we can see the impact it has on our relationship with God.

We'll talk about all of that in a minute, but first, let's pray.

OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

Host, lead the group in prayer.

KEY VERSES (5 MIN)

After a prayer, say: Let's bring everyone up-to-speed with key verses from Galatians 4:

CAN SOMEONE READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES, AND I'LL READ THE SUMMARY:

VERSE	SUMMARY
Vs. 1	Paul tells us adhering to the Law looks like freedom but ends in oppression, and the life God wants for you looks oppressive, but ends in freedom.
Vs. 6	For those who have put their faith in the righteousness of Christ, we can do nothing to make God love us more or love us less.
Vs. 17	Paul contrasts the flesh with the Spirit, and reminds us that we can live in service to one or the other.
Vs. 19-21	Here we find a list of the evidence that we are being led by and indulging in our sinful flesh.
Vs. 22-23	The list of the flesh is followed by a list of things that are evidence that we are being led by and indulging in the Spirit.
Vs. 24	Paul reminds us our flesh has been crucified with Christ.

WHICH OF THESE KEY VERSES INTRIGUES YOU THE MOST, AND WHY?**MAN MADE FLESH (15-20 MIN)**

After a discussion, say: We don't usually use the term "flesh" when talking about life or our body, but it's an important concept to understand for our faith.

CAN SOMEONE READ GENESIS 2:21-24 ALOUD FOR US?

After the reading, say: In Genesis 1, we hear about how God makes Adam in his image. Here, we read about how God made Eve in his image, as well. But there's also this understanding of flesh. Except here, before the fall, there is no corruption of the flesh.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK OF UNCORRUPTED FLESH? WHAT IMAGES COME TO MIND?**CAN SOMEONE READ GENESIS 3:16-19 ALOUD FOR US?**

After the reading, say: After the fall, this is the curse pronounced over Adam and Eve.

HOW ARE ADAM AND EVE'S FLESH (IN THIS READING) AFFECTED BY THE CURSE OF SIN?

GOD MADE FLESH (15-20 MIN)

After a discussion, say: God sends his eternal Son to redeem our sinful flesh.

CAN SOMEONE READ JOHN 1:1-5 AND THEN JOHN 1:14 ALOUD FOR US?

After the reading, say: Though he was sinless, Jesus came to redeem us from sin by taking on our sinful flesh. Eventually, he will take on the punishment for our sin in his flesh. This changes how we read passages like this:

CAN SOMEONE READ JOHN 19:1-3?

After the reading, say: Earlier we asked how Adam and Eve's flesh were affected by the curse of sin. Based on this reading, let's ask a similar question—

HOW WAS JESUS' FLESH AFFECTED (IN THIS READING) BY THE CURSE OF SIN?

After a discussion, say: The Apostle Peter would later write in 1 Peter 2:24, "He himself bore our sins" in his FLESH on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

SPIRIT GIVEN FLESH (10-15 MIN)

But there's one more wild doctrine of the flesh that we need to highlight: the resurrection of the dead. There will be a day God will give our spirits in heaven a new, redeemed body. This is a longer reading, so we'll use this as the close of our time together.

CAN SOMEONE READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-55 ALOUD FOR US?**HOW DOES THIS READING GIVE YOU HOPE? IN OTHER WORDS, HOW HAVE YOU OR A LOVED ONE BEEN SUFFERING IN THE FLESH?****CLOSING PRAYER (5 – 7 MIN)**

Obviously, because of Christ we have a lot of reasons to give thanks to the Lord.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS TODAY?

Host, after taking prayer requests, close the group in prayer.