

The Struggle

KEY VERSES

Galatians 2:11-22

KEY THEMES

Motivation of the heart

How we get it wrong

TEACHING NOTES

 **Living for God (Galatians 2:17-21)**

Transformational truth

Understanding grace

 **First Century Church (Galatians 1:1-7)**

Outside looking in

INTRODUCTION

INNOCENCE

CONSCIENCE

HUMAN GOVT.

PROMISE

LAW

GRACE

The Law

Ceremonial

Sacrificial

Blueprint for growth**Substitution****Examples**

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. – Galatians 2:20

Lesson objective: *To understand how important our motivation is and how we can move past our misunderstanding.*

PERSONAL STUDY**Session 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Take time to quiet your heart so you can focus better on God and what He has for you. Ask Him to help you understand and apply these truths.

**Read Galatians 2:20-21****Living out this new life**

As we read this excerpt from the letter Paul wrote to the Galatians, we need to keep in mind what he was trying to communicate. Earlier, Paul had taught them that salvation is not gained by obeying a set of laws or following certain religious practices. Instead, salvation is a free gift from God when a person chooses to believe in what Jesus has done for them. These early believers in Galatia were being wrongly influenced to start practicing certain rituals in order to earn and keep their salvation. In this letter, Paul wants them to clearly understand what this new life in Christ is all about.

Early in your faith, were there certain things you thought you had to do to “*be a good Christian?*” What were some of these activities?

When you read in verse 20, *it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me*, what do you think Paul is trying to communicate?

One of the keys to living out the Christian life is reminding ourselves that we are under new ownership. Previously, we called the shots and made decisions without considering what God might desire from us. Now that the Holy Spirit resides in us, we have someone to guide us and help us live in a way that brings honor to God instead of just trying to satisfy our desires. However, there is a catch, because of the free will we have, we still can pay little or no attention to God’s Spirit and continue living for ourselves.

Think about the typical way you go about living life. Do you attempt to see what God desires or do you tend to do things the way you think best? Why?

When you try to live your life for God, what would you say are some of the reasons? (*i.e. others will think better of me, God will be more pleased with me, keep in good standing with God*)

Our motivation

With so many potentially misguided motivations for living out our lives for God, what would be a healthier and more accurate focus that would spur us on?



Read 1 John 4:19 and 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

What do you see in these verses that should fuel our desire to serve the Lord with our lives?

When God's love is what we calibrate our lives towards, we will have a much better chance of not living to make ourselves look good or to try to get God to move on our behalf. As we live out a life that is focused on loving God, we will be much more able to love others with this same love.

What are some things that may be hindering you from living more fully for the Lord?

Key verse

Put to memory Galatians 2:20. Place the provided card somewhere you'll see it throughout the day so you can be frequently reminded of the truth of God's Word.

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Prayer time

Take some time and talk to God about how you are currently pursuing life. Be honest about what currently drives you and consumes most of your focus. Ask Him to help you make the necessary shifts in order to live a life that honors God as the aim.

Session 2

Prepare your heart and mind

Begin this time of study with prayer. Ask God to help you push away distractions and focus on Him. Ask Him to bless this time by providing clarity and revealing truth.

Peter and Paul

Peter and Paul are often seen as heroes today because of their leadership roles in the Early Church. Sometimes we can end up idolizing them because of the work they did, but we need to remember that they were real people with real struggles just like us. Something they struggled with was their identity – what to do with their Jewish identity as Christians. Peter struggled with this more than Paul. So Paul had to show Peter some tough love to help him work through this issue.



Read Acts 10 and Galatians 2:11-21

To find out more about these Early Church struggles, take some time to read and study Acts 10 and Galatians 2:11-21. As you read, think about how you've lost sight of what's important, how you've been swayed by bad influences, how you've seen the church get things wrong, and how you've called out wrong thinking and acting, or been called out by others. Feel free to mark any words or phrases that stick out to you.

Once you've read through the passages, go through them again using the observation, interpretation, and application study prompts below.

Observation

(Who? When? Where? Why? What does it say? What do I notice?)

Interpretation

(What are the key themes or truths? What is the writer's intended meaning? What is the context? What questions do I have?)

Application

(How do I apply it? What does this mean for me?)

Key verse

Continue working to memorize Galatians 2:20. Attempt to write it out from memory:

Prayer time

End your time of study in prayer. Thank God for what He's been teaching you through *Equipping the Church*. Ask Him to reveal ways you've gotten things wrong in the past and help guide you in the future to walk in wisdom and love.

ADDITIONAL STUDY

In this week's lesson we saw Paul correct and remind Peter of the truth that we are crucified with Christ, dead to the power of sin, and alive through surrender to the Spirit. Next week we will continue to look at Peter, learn how he responded, and study some of what he taught after this experience. As a sneak peak, follow the instructions below.



Read 2 Peter 1:1-4

Observation

(Who? When? Where? Why? What does it say? What do I notice?)

Interpretation

(What are the key themes or truths? What is the writer's intended meaning? What is the context? What questions do I have?)

Application

(How do I apply it? What does this mean for me?)

