



Bible Study Guides

Epistle of Paul to the GALATIANS

Compiled by and for: ANOC Int'l

*Note: This material is NOT FOR SALE and for ANOC Int'l Oikos Cell Groups consumption only. These questions are taken from **The Complete BIBLE DISCUSSION GUIDE** by Mack Thomas.*

QUESTIONS TO ASK AS YOU STUDY EACH CHAPTER:

- Ø Since the ultimate aim of Bible study is *to know God better*, what does this chapter tell me about God's character and personality?
- Ø Since God has given me the Bible to change my life, what needed corrections or adjustments in my habits or character come to mind as I explore this chapter?
- Ø In this chapter, what are...
the key verses, the key phrases, the key words?
the key points or principles—*and how do they work in my life?*
- Ø In this chapter, do I see any...
commands to obey?
promises to claim?
standards to live by?
examples to learn from?
- Ø What three-to-six word title could I give to this chapter, to help me remember its teaching?

EVERYONE'S BEST PREPARATION for Discussing Each Chapter:

Read the chapter... reread it... and reread it again.

QUESTIONS TO ASK AS YOU BEGIN YOUR STUDY OF EACH BOOK:

- Ø If you're already familiar with this book, which passages are your favorite parts of it?
- Ø If this were the only book in the Bible you knew about or had access to, what things could you still find out about God?
- Ø As you scan this book, what *types* of Bible literature does it appear to contain? (You may want to review together the different types, such as those listed here:)
 - poetry
 - historical or biographical narrative (a record of people and events)
 - teaching or sermons
 - laws or covenant agreements
 - parables (short stories and word pictures with a moral point)
 - proverbs (short, wise sayings)
 - prophecy (statements from God about the present and future)
- Ø What appear to be the main divisions in this book?
- Ø From what you understand about this book, *who* wrote it (and when), and for what *original audience* was it written?
- Ø From what you see in looking over this book, what would you say the author was trying most to accomplish?
- Ø Which chapter in this book would you say is the key chapter, the one that best summarizes or reflects or unlocks the meaning of the entire book?

- Ø From what you see in looking over this book, what kinds of answers and guidelines and solutions in life do you think we can reasonably expect to find in this book?
- Ø What four- to six-word title would you give to this book, to best summarize its content and significance?
- Ø When you get to heaven, if you asked God, "Why did You include this book in the Bible?" how do you think He would answer?

GUIDELINES FOR GREATER EFFECTIVENESS IN YOUR OIKOS CELL GROUP DURING BIBLE STUDY DISCUSSION

- Ø ***Remember to pray***, both as you read and prepare, and later as you meet together and talk. Admit the truth: You really do depend on God's Holy Spirit to make the Word come alive in your mind and heart, so request His help. He *is* your teacher, and He will guide you into truth. (Pray for each other as well. The spiritual war rages, and each Christian's life is a battlefield.)
- Ø ***Don't dominate the discussion***. If necessary, keep asking yourself this question, and answering it honestly: *What do I enjoy more—presenting my own thoughts, or getting others more involved in discovering and discussing what the Bible says?*
- Ø ***Keep your focus on the Scriptures***. If you keep digging in with an honest desire for discovery, you'll *never* exhaust the Bible's treasures. It's natural for a group's discussion to occasionally wander down rabbit trails. Stay aware of that, and when it happens, speak up to restore the group's focus on the passage at hand. Then you'll often be surprised at the power Scripture has to quickly put tangents into true perspective.

- Ø Don't get so wrapped up in *interpreting* what a passage might mean that you overlook two more important aspects of Bible study: (1) *simply seeing what the passage has to say*, and (2) *applying its message directly to your life*. Nothing kills effective Bible study more than the neglect of these two simple goals.
- Ø ***Truly encourage one another.*** Show your genuine excitement when others relate their discoveries in God's Word. Respond in the same way Jesus would if He were bodily present in your group — for these are the voices of His children as they encounter the Scriptures that testify of Him.

PLEASE DO OBSERVE THIS PATTERN:

WORSHIP TIME: (10 min)

FOCUS: Us to God

AIM: To focus our attention as individuals and as a group on the presence of the Lord Jesus

The **WORSHIP TIME** is meant to focus the hearts of the group away from themselves and onto God. This is often, but not exclusively done through singing worship songs. Worship is a chance for us to reflect on who God is and to speak the truth about Him to each other. **WORSHIP TIME** can be spent in a wide variety of ways, but keep 2 things in mind:

1. each person must be able to participate
2. the focus must be on the Lord Jesus

WORD TIME: (40 mins)

FOCUS: God to us

AIM: Allow God to minister to us as we study his word

The **WORD TIME** is based on a Biblical passage of the previous week's sermon or particular topic from the booklet provided. The goal is not Bible study or philosophical discussion, but instead a time where group members learn together what the Bible is teaching, as well as open up and share about their personal spiritual journeys.

WORKS TIME: (15 mins)

FOCUS: GOD TO OTHERS - THROUGH US

AIM: Allow God to reach and minister to others outside this group through us

The **WORKS TIME** is a time focusing on reaching others with the gospel of Christ. This includes a time of prayer with an expectation that

God is going to use us to reach our community for him. Along with a time of prayer, the group can spend together time creating strategies to reach those who do not know Christ, taking responsibility for one another's friends and family members (e.g., social and special outreach events). This time is essential to the dynamics of the group, making growth and multiplication the normal expectation.

WOW TIME: (30 mins)

FOCUS: *Serving One another*

AIM: This is the fellowship time where every individual will be enjoying the food being serve and Discipleship Levels will be worked with.

The **WOW TIME** is a time that most people are enjoying with but this should not the entire focus of the meeting. It is only part of the whole cell group meeting. From light snacks to heavy meal might be serve during the WOW time but is not compulsory for the host to serve an extravagant meal. Other members may also bring food aside from the meal serve by the host. Visitors will be entertained during this time and Oikos Cell System (*both Leadership and Discipleship*) will be introduced to them.

In this time Discipleship level are also given priority so that the members can complete their Discipleship Level goals.

GALATIANS 1

WELCOME TIME: (15 min)- Questions should be a simple question that can be answered in one minute or so. Download this application “Question Box” in PlayStore/Apps Store for more questions.

Startup: What are the hardest things to communicate to someone you love?

WORSHIP TIME: (10 min)- Testimonies and Singing

WORD TIME: (40 mins)- **READ Galatians 1:1-24**

Note: Look also at the list of **"Questions to Ask as You Study Each Chapter"**, which you may want to do for each chapter in Galatians.

1. As you read this chapter, what's the strongest impression or image it leaves in your mind?
2. What in this chapter do you think might be most surprising to a new Christian reading it for the first time?
3. How many times do you see the word *grace* in this chapter? Which verse do you think gives the best illustration of grace?
4. From what you've seen so far in this letter, how would you describe Paul's relationship with the Galatians?

5. Picture this book of Galatians as a fast-moving train. Chapter 1 is the locomotive in front, and the other chapters represent railway cars that follow behind. From what you see here in chapter 1, what is the *energy* in the locomotive—the point or principle or theme that's the driving force for the locomotive and the entire train?

6. Look closely at verses [11-12](#). When Christians share the gospel message with non-Christians today, how can they be certain it is the gospel from Jesus Christ, and not merely a gospel that comes from man?

FOR GOING DEEPER

Look again at Paul's statement of cursing or condemnation in verses [8-9](#), then discuss together how the following passages shed light on the meaning of this —[Rom 9:3](#), and [1 Cor 12:2-3](#) and [16:22](#).

WORKS TIME: (15 mins)- Pray for someone's needs and Plan for Evangelism Strategy.

WOW TIME: (30 mins)- Time to eat BUT make sure that those who didn't complete there Discipleship Levels will be taking care of.

GALATIANS 2

WELCOME TIME: (15 min)- Questions should be a simple question that can be answered in one minute or so. Download this application “Question Box” in PlayStore/Apps Store for more questions.

Startup: What images come to your mind when you think of the contrast between death and life?

WORSHIP TIME: (10 min)- Testimonies and Singing

WORD TIME: (40 mins)- **READ Galatians 2:1-21**

1. Look again at Paul's example in verse [20](#). What kind of mental habits do you think could most easily block the words in this verse from staying alive in your mind and heart?
2. The older you get, in what ways does it get easier to live out what Paul teaches by example and word in verse [20](#)? In what ways does it get harder?
3. As you think about the situation presented in this chapter, what parallels do you see with what *has* happened or *is* happening in your family or church, or in your personal life?

FOR GOING DEEPER

Keep in mind what Paul says about the law in this chapter, as you look together at the following passages and explore what they say on this topic—[Rom 7:7-12](#), [1 Tim 1:8-11](#), and [Heb 7:11-12](#).

WORKS TIME: (15 mins)- Pray for someone's needs and Plan for Evangelism Strategy.

WOW TIME: (30 mins)- Time to eat BUT make sure that those who didn't complete there Discipleship Levels will be taking care of.

GALATIANS 3

WELCOME TIME: (15 min)- Questions should be a simple question that can be answered in one minute or so. Download this application “Question Box” in PlayStore/Apps Store for more questions.

Startup: When you think of the word *law*, what visual images or synonyms come to your mind?

WORSHIP TIME: (10 min)- Testimonies and Singing

WORD TIME: (40 mins)- **READ Galatians 3:1-29**

1. Suppose that at the end of this chapter, Paul added this line: "If you remember only one thing from this chapter, let it be this:..." How do you think he would complete that sentence?
2. *How* exactly has Scripture done what Paul says it has in verse [22](#)?
3. Now that you're halfway through the book of Galatians, how would you summarize the most important teachings you've seen in this letter?
4. Look again at the truths expressed in verses [26-29](#). What practical difference could these truths make in a Christian's self-image? What practical difference could they make in the way a Christian views other Christians?
5. Suppose you were discussing the gospel with a non-Christian friend, and he said to you, "What does the death of Jesus really have to do with it? Can't God save people

without having to kill someone on a cross?" In your response, how could you use what Paul teaches in this chapter?

FOR GOING DEEPER

Look together again at verses [19-20](#), and compare them with [1 Tim 2:5-6](#), and [Acts 7:38](#) and [7:53](#).

WORKS TIME: (15 mins)- Pray for someone's needs and Plan for Evangelism Strategy.

WOW TIME: (30 mins)- Time to eat BUT make sure that those who didn't complete there Discipleship Levels will be taking care of.

GALATIANS 4

WELCOME TIME: (15 min)- Questions should be a simple question that can be answered in one minute or so. Download this application “Question Box” in PlayStore/Apps Store for more questions.

Startup: When do you feel most like God's child?

WORSHIP TIME: (10 min)- Testimonies and Singing

WORD TIME: (40 mins)- **READ Galatians 4:1-31**

1. Would you say this is a chapter that especially requires *patience* as you read and study it, in order to understand it? If so, why?
2. Look again at verses [8-10](#). How does truly knowing God—and being known by God—take away any need for legalistic rules and principles?
3. If you asked the apostle Paul, "What's the worst form of slavery?" how do you think he might answer, based on what you see in this chapter?
4. From the evidence you've seen so far in this letter, what are the most important *expectations* Paul has of the Galatians?
5. Look again at verse [28](#). What does it mean to you to be a "child of promise"? How often do you think of yourself that way?

FOR GOING DEEPER

In verse 4, notice again Paul's use of the phrase "in the fullness of time" or "when the time had fully come." Then discuss together how the following verses illuminate his meaning—[Mark 1:14-15](#), [Rom 5:6](#), and [Eph 1:9-10](#).

WORKS TIME: (15 mins)- Pray for someone's needs and Plan for Evangelism Strategy.

WOW TIME: (30 mins)- Time to eat BUT make sure that those who didn't complete there Discipleship Levels will be taking care of.

GALATIANS 5

WELCOME TIME: (15 min)- Questions should be a simple question that can be answered in one minute or so. Download this application “Question Box” in PlayStore/Apps Store for more questions.

Startup: Look together at the "fruit of the Spirit" listed in verses [22-23](#). If you were making a poster to illustrate this passage, and you wanted to show a different kind of fruit for each of the qualities listed there, which fruit would you choose for each one?

WORSHIP TIME: (10 min)- Testimonies and Singing

WORD TIME: (40 mins)- **READ Galatians 5:1-26**

1. How would you describe the freedom God wants us to have in our lives, as you see it expressed in this letter?
2. What can keep us from experiencing the freedom in life that this letter talks about?
3. Look again at verse [13](#). What are the most important things we have to serve others *with*?
4. Suppose a new Christian asked you, "How can I *know* that the Holy Spirit lives in me?" How could you use verses [22-23](#) to help you give a meaningful answer?
5. How would you describe your own personal progress in living out the truth expressed in verse [24](#)?

6. In verse [26](#), notice again what Paul tells us *not* to do. In what ways would you say Christians are most in danger of doing this?
7. Of all that you see in this chapter, what one truth are you most *thankful* for, because of its personal significance to you?
8. If God had written this chapter only for *you*, which words or phrases do you think He would have underlined?

FOR GOING DEEPER

Notice again the description of the fruit of the Spirit in verses [22-23](#), then discuss how closely this list corresponds to the lists of qualities and virtues in [2 Cor 6:6](#), [Eph 5:9](#), and [Col 3:12-15](#).

WORKS TIME: (15 mins)- Pray for someone's needs and Plan for Evangelism Strategy.

WOW TIME: (30 mins)- Time to eat BUT make sure that those who didn't complete their Discipleship Levels will be taking care of.

GALATIANS 6

WELCOME TIME: (15 min)- Questions should be a simple question that can be answered in one minute or so. Download this application “Question Box” in PlayStore/Apps Store for more questions.

Startup: What kinds of experiences make you the most tired—either mentally or physically—and what kinds of experiences help you most to alleviate that tiredness?

WORSHIP TIME: (10 min)- Testimonies and Singing

WORD TIME: (40 mins)- **READ Galatians 6:1-18**

1. How susceptible do you think Christians in general are today to the deception which Paul warns against in verse [7](#)?
2. Imagine you saw earlier today a message written in fire in the sky. It was addressed to you by name, then continued with these words: *Thus saith the LORD: "Read [Gal 6](#), for I have something for you there."* Which verse or verses in this chapter do you think He most likely would be referring to?
3. In [Phil 4:8](#) we're given the following command: "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—*think about such things.*" What food for thought can you find in this chapter that especially strikes you as being *true*, or *noble*, or *right*, or *pure*, or *lovely*, or *admirable*, or *excellent*, or *praiseworthy*?

4. If you were talking with a non-Christian friend who was thinking seriously about the gospel, and who asked you, "But why do so many Christians seem to do wrong things?"—what verses could you use in this chapter (or from elsewhere in Galatians) to help you give a meaningful reply, and how would you use them?

5. If you were asked to write a discussion question to help your Bible study group apply something in this chapter to their lives, how would you word the question?

FOR GOING DEEPER

Don't grow weary! With the challenge in verses [9-10](#) in mind, look also at the following passages that teach endurance, then discuss some workable ways to put them into practice—1 Corinthians 9:24-27, [Eph 6:10-20](#), [Phil 3:12-14](#), and [2 Tim 2:1-13](#).

WORKS TIME: (15 mins)- Pray for someone's needs and Plan for Evangelism Strategy.

WOW TIME: (30 mins)- Time to eat BUT make sure that those who didn't complete there Discipleship Levels will be taking care of.

CONGRATULATIONS!