

STUDY GUIDE



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[start with prayer]

Missions Prayer Focus this week:
Keith and Natalie Back—CRU

[set up]

Share a story of a time when you felt trapped, and then experienced freedom.

[digging deeper]

Read Galatians 3:15-29.

What words do you see that convey being trapped?
What theological concept is tied to being trapped or enslaved?

What can you know about the purpose of the law? (Is it good or bad? Ancient and unnecessary or valid and applicable?) **Look up these verses before answering: Romans 3:20 and Romans 7:12.*

How do people try to live out the law today in their Christian faith? How do non-Christians try and live out the law?

Who are Abraham's offspring in these verses and how do you know? (Note—there may be more than one way to answer this...)

God has freed us not only from being a slave, but has called us to be a what?

How does the word "Sons" also include Christian women?

As a group, form a list of all that we receive because we are heirs/beneficiaries through Christ (use a large Post-it note if you have one). Have each person circle one of the words on the list that is most meaningful to them and explain why.

Galatians 3:28 says - *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."* Sometimes this verse is used by people to say that there are no longer distinctions among God's people. Taken to an extreme, this can cause great confusion when it comes to roles—husband, wife, church leadership, employer, employee, etc. This verse addresses discrimination but doesn't eliminate distinctives. How do verses like Ephesians 5:22-25 and Ephesians 6:5-9 help reconcile this understanding?

Additional "bonus" question sparked by vs. 27: Have you been baptized? (If time allows, each person in your group can give a 30-second baptism testimony (when, how old, where, etc.). For those who have not been baptized, our next baptisms are scheduled for Sunday, August 12 at Wallace Lake. Sign up at www.cvconline.org/baptism by Thursday, July 19!

[living it out]

Write a brief thank you note—a paragraph or so—to God thanking Him for adopting you as His child when you came to Christ. You can include what you are grateful for as His heir/beneficiary and especially include the word you circled from earlier. (If LifeGroup leaders can have 3x5 cards or paper and pens, this would help.) Leave this out somewhere special and visible this week as a reminder of who you are in Christ, and what you have in Christ.

[end with prayer]

As you close in prayer, have each person say a prayer and if they feel comfortable, read their thank you note to God as their prayer or part of their prayer.

Pray for others by name that you know who are still enslaved to law, who have not come to Christ and experienced all that God has for them as His child. This is a great time to pray for someone on your “Top 5” prayer list.