

# Living Connections Bible Study

## Spiritual Roots

### Freedom and Responsibility

**Text:** Galatians 4:11-20

### Prayer

**Icebreaker:** What brings Christian parents the greatest satisfaction as they think back over their years of loving sacrifice in raising their children?

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1. How did the Apostle John sum this up? 3 John 1:4

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2. What joy did Paul look forward to as he reflected back over those he had won for Christ at Thessalonica? 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

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*When our children are young they walk on our toes, but when they grow old, if they forsake their spiritual roots, they walk on our hearts.*

3. What motherly type of concern did Paul express to the Galatians since they were turning away from justification by faith to the rites, rituals, rules and regulations of Judaism to earn God's favor? Galatians 4:11, 19-20

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4. Every parent should set a good example for their children to follow. As their spiritual father, what kind of an example had Paul been to the Galatians regarding justification by faith? Galatians 4:12; Philippians 3:2-9

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5. What do you think Paul meant in verse 12, *You have not injured me at all?* Wasn't Paul hurt to see his spiritual children turning away from faith in Christ to the Law?

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6. What physical infirmities did Paul face to preach the gospel in the Roman province of Galatia? Galatians 4:13-14a; Acts 14:19-22; 2 Corinthians 11:24-28

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7. What reception did the Galatians give to Paul when he first came to them with the gospel?  
Galatians 4:14b

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8. What reminder does Paul give the Galatians in verse 15?

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9. What should every godly parent do for their children, even if they are misunderstood?  
Galatians 4:16

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10. What does Paul accuse the Judaizers of doing in verse 17?

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11. Had the Galatian believers been as eager to follow Paul when he was with them? Galatians 4:18

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## **Think about it this week:**

Paul expressed great love and concern for his spiritual children in verses 19-20, saying, *My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you. I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.*

Would your spiritual parents have reason to doubt your standing in Christ by the way you are living your life, and because of the teachers you are following today?

Write a card, letter, or send an email message to the one/s who brought you to Christ expressing your appreciation for sharing the Savior with you, and for helping you to grow in your Christian life.