

Living Connections Bible Study

The Tale of Two Cities

Freedom and Responsibility

Text: Galatians 4:21 – 5:1

Prayer

Icebreaker: Why is it a mistake to look to Mount Sinai for our directions for living the Christian life?

What does it mean to look to Mount Calvary, the Cross, and the empty tomb as the secret to living the Christian life? Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:1-11

1. What does the Bible term, *The Law*, mean as used by Paul in Galatians 4:21?

Taking the account of Abraham, his two wives, and his two sons from the Law of Moses, as recorded in Genesis chapters 12-21, Paul presents the Galatians with an allegory demonstrating the conflict between Law and grace.

2. Compare and contrast the two sons of Abraham, Ishmael and Isaac. Galatians 4:22-31; Genesis 17:15-19

3. How do Ishmael and Isaac illustrate the need to be born again? John 3:6-7 *That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, you must be born again.*

4. Compare and contrast Abraham's two wives, Sarah and Hagar. Galatians 4:22-31

5. What good counsel did God give Abraham regarding Hagar and Ishmael that we should apply to any efforts on our part to try to earn God's favor through the Law? Genesis 17:18-19; 21:9-12

6. Compare and contrast Mount Sinai and Mount Calvary. Galatians 4:24-25; Exodus 19:16-23; Genesis 22:2, 8, 14; Hebrews 12:18-24

7. Compare and contrast the earthly Jerusalem and the heavenly Jerusalem. Galatians 4:25-26; Hebrews 12:22-23; Revelation 21:2-4

8. Fill in the following blanks:

- The Old Covenant, the Law, gives birth to _____. Galatians 4:24-25
- The New Covenant gives birth to _____ in Christ. Galatians 4:26
- By faith in Christ we have become children of _____. Galatians 4:28
- False religions _____ God's true children. Galatians 4:29
- I shouldn't try to mix _____ and grace. Galatians 4:30
- I must _____ fast in my Christian liberty in Christ. Galatians 5:1

Think about it this week:

Begin each day by rejoicing in your justification by faith, and in the freedom and power that is ours because of Christ's death, resurrection, and life in us by the Holy Spirit.