



WEEK 1 DEVOTIONAL

May 21, 2023

RECEIVE

Slowly. Prayerfully, read and/or listen to Galatians 1 twice. Before and after each reading, pray asking the Spirit of Christ to guide you into knowing and living what you are receiving from the Scriptures. Consider, what does God want you to reflect on and learn from?

REFLECT

1. Do you remember the story of the Damascus road? Read Acts 9:1–18 and share what is most striking for you.
2. Paul's conversion was dramatic and his commission was specific. Have you ever wrestled with a calling, a commission? It may be parenting, or school office or your career. Describe your commitment. What do you imagine Paul's commitment was like? What words come to mind?
3. What is Paul concerned about for his Galatian brothers and sisters? Why is "sameness" so important in this situation? Is Paul's attention to words the same thing as legalism? What is Paul objecting to?
4. How would you explain the Gospel to an unbeliever? In your own words craft a statement that describes the "Good News"

and share it with your group. Talk about the language with your group.

RESPOND

- Consider this week, how small differences in language can cause huge differences in results and intent. Reflect on precision in your own language. Why is it important to say what you mean and mean what you say? Journal about how you can work on that—maybe find a friend you can talk with and process to find out if they are getting your meaning.
- Dive deeper into the Scriptures during our weekly Sunday Connections group at 10:30 a.m. at our Oak Brook campus.

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 1:1–24 New International Version

Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—² and all the brothers and sisters^[a] with me, To the churches in Galatia:

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! ⁹ As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

¹⁰ Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

¹¹ I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. ¹² I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

¹³ For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. ¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas^[b] and stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰ I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.

²¹ Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. ²² I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they praised God because of me

RESOURCES

Watch the [Introduction to Galatians](#) from The Bible Project. What is one idea that captures your mind and heart as you watched the video or read Galatians 1?

