CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE –

Galatians Series: *Free in Christ*
"Sowing and Reaping" - Galatians 6:6-10

FELLOWSHIP
Science observes that every effect has a cause. Everything is part of some kind of action and reaction cycle. Math shows this in the form of equations, life shows this through its experiences. One may see the blue sky, feel the pain of injury, or ponder the chair that they are sitting in, but these all exist because of something else. The causality principle can be debated in the halls of academia or annoy us with the child's endless barrage of "why." Thinking and behavior fall under this law too. All of our choices result in some kind of consequence. Eastern expressions of this have slipped into our popular culture, where one might say, "They got what was coming to them." This loose view of fate or "karma," is similar, but different than true personal choice and responsibility. Paul illustrated this truth of actions and consequences with an agricultural picture. His first century audience understood that harvest would always bear the fruit of whatever kind of seed they had placed in the ground. But Paul took this spiritual application further when he said that sowing and reaping doesn't just affect this life, but the one to come. A sure sign of a follower of Jesus is that they are inclined towards doing the right thing. For those that call themselves Christians while practicing the works of the flesh, Paul says they are delusional. Let's not wait until we're standing before God to find out if our actions are alright with him. Rather, as Paul said in 6:4, "Let each one examine their own work."

PRAY, READ, DISCUSS
Read ***Galatians 6:6-10*** out loud together and then discuss ways to apply this passage to our daily lives. Below is a ***structural outline*** of the passage. These kinds of outlines focus on the phrases and their primary and secondary ideas. Here it reveals a series of ***exhortations*** and the reasons or conditions for them. What would you say is Paul's main idea in this paragraph?

v. 6 Let him who is taught the <u>word</u>
share in all good things
with him who teaches.
v. 7 ***Do not be deceived,***
God is not mocked;
for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.
v. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption,
but
he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.
v. 9 ***And let us not grow weary while doing good***,
for in due season we shall reap
if we do not lose heart.
v. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity,
let us do good to all,
especially to those who are of the household of faith.

• Reading Matt 12:36, and Rev 20.12 How do we reconcile these passages about God with what we read in John 4:8, John 3:16, & Romans 5:8? What about God most stands out to you regarding his nature? How have your opinions about him changed over time? How do you interpret life's issues, problems, pain, or successes and victories in light of God? Would you blame God, the devil, fate, or something else for life's ups and downs?

• Jesus' acts of kindness often went against what was socially comfortable. Read Luke 6:27-31. What real world applications could we make from this today? What might be reaped from this kind of sowing?

PRAY