

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE –

Galatians Series: *Free in Christ* “Until Christ is Formed in You” - Galatians 4:8-20

FELLOWSHIP

Investments take time, attention, and usually some kind of work. But even with these, there is always some kind of risk. Not every investment sees its full potential, some even fail. Every parent knows this fear as they carry a child in the womb, raise them according to their values, and then release them to college, life, or their own adult relationships. There is no guarantee that they will embrace the same world-view that their parents hoped they would. Distance, time away, and a drop in communication potentially adds to the apprehension of a successful life launch. Thank goodness we are not alone on our spiritual journeys. Community Groups are one way we make sure that our investments in God receive the regular attention, efforts and communication that this relationship needs.

PRAY, READ, DISCUSS

Read **Galatians 4:8-20** out loud together, but notice Paul’s words and feel his concern in verses 19-20 when he says, “My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!” At this distance, Paul doesn’t know what else he can do. While God is the agent to develop Christ in them, there is the personal responsibility the Galatians needed to take to foster the correct growth. Time permitting read another Apostle’s similar plea to his spiritual children in **2 Peter 1:5-11**, where God’s work in them was to be cultivated lest it wane.

- There was a time when you didn’t know God. He has always known you, he knows everything. But how well do you know him? What are the best ways to get to know someone? How could these be applied to God? What are some of the misconceptions out there about God that have kept people away from him? What kinds of things about God would help one feel safe, like they were on the right path in life? What about God is so great that worldly pursuits begin to lose their luster?
- Have you ever worked on a project, or built a relationship, and all the hours of investment or costs, only to see it taken by someone else? Or worse that they took credit for it? Or worse still, they used against you or to hurt you? What did that feel like? Cults usually grow their ranks by preying on the work started by others. When have you or someone you’ve known been “courted zealously” by another religious group? What is the preventative antidote for these encounters?
- There is a partnership with God in our spiritual growth. Pastor Brian cited **Philippians 2:12-13** regarding Christ being formed in us, i.e. the Christian life. *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.* What is the “work” that God has started in us, that we are to be “working out” of us?

PRAY

Please finish your time together by breaking into smaller groups so we can encourage and pray for each other as openly as possible.

