

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE –

Galatians Series: *Free in Christ* “Bear One Another’s Burdens” - Galatians 6:1-6

FELLOWSHIP

Every week we hear of some really awesome ministry that is coming from our groups. Just today one of our Costa Mesa CGs sent word how several in their group had helped a homeless man, Jose, with a meal, gave him a really cool hat for sun protection, and a gospel message. One of the group members then felt led to bless Jose with a pedicure and manicure. That last part may have been more significant than we realize. Restoration is part of the Christian mission. Christ modeled this every day for his disciples as he prayed for and helped to relieve people of their physical and spiritual burdens. Paul in this chapter exhorts the church to share each other’s burdens, and to thus fulfill the law of Christ. Just what is the law of Christ? Paul referenced it in chapter 5:14, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Maybe you’ve heard people talk about the “Golden Rule.” That is usually in reference to Matthew 7:12, “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” Whether it’s the burdens of life, like health, family, or finances, or the burden of sin, let’s continue to let the Lord’s grace operate amongst us and stir us to take it to our neighbors.

PRAY, READ, DISCUSS

Read **Galatians 6:1-6** out loud together and then discuss ways to apply this passage to our daily lives: *Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important. Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won’t need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct. Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them.*

- Think about and discuss how God restores. What are some examples from the Bible where God had restored someone from their sin. If you need help, read John 8:10-11 or Luke 23:42-43. How do we see the fruit of the Spirit reflected in the way God restores people? (Galatians 5:22-23) What usually is the reaction when God relieves someone of their burden? (see Luke 8:38-39) When did you experience God restoring you? What were the feelings you had after God healed you?
- Paul exhorts the church to help each other, but specifically those who are “spiritual” or “godly.” Why does he specify that condition? Have you ever experienced an attempted restoration that was not in the “spirit of gentleness?” Paul also warns us to not fall into the same temptation of the person we are helping. What are some ways to prevent this?
- One of the most read books in history next to the Bible is *The Pilgrim’s Progress*. An allegory of the Christian life written by Paul Bunyan in 1678, it has been translated into over 200 languages, and has never been out of print. If anyone in your group has read it, how would the story of Christian apply to our discussion this week? Maybe as a group, we could agree to read it together this Spring?

PRAY

We look forward to see you on Friday and Sunday! Pray for the events that the gospel will be presented and that the Lord will be glorified in our worship and focus on him. Also pray for who we can invite this weekend to introduce them to Jesus. God wants to heal and restore!

