



GALATIANS

DEEPLY ROOTED FREEDOM

GALATIANS 3:23-4:7

GETTING STARTED...

Nepotism is a real concern in the workplace, especially for a family business. How does the boss distinguish between the relationship as their child and their employee? This can be a tricky role to balance correctly, and where favoritism has been obvious it has caused all kinds of problems. But while this confusion of roles can lead to problems in a workplace, it is exactly the point for us in our faith. Because of Jesus we are not God's employees working for a pay cheque, but his children whom he loves. God has not called us as his employees, held at a distance, but as his children. God has adopted us as children through what Jesus has done. No matter our background we have the free offer of coming to God through Jesus as his children, not held at arm's length, but lovingly brought into his family. We are no longer strangers or employees; we are God's children.

READ THE TEXT: GALATIANS 3:23-4:7

²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

⁴ I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time

had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What is the role of the law in this passage? How does that line up with what Paul has written in 3:22?
2. What is the difference that Paul has in mind between a slave and a son in this passage? How does that inform our relationship with God through faith in Jesus?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How does this text change the way that we relate to God? Do you find yourself more likely to think about God as a strict teacher or as a loving parent?
6. What does it mean for us to relate to God as "Father"? How does our relationship with our earthly father's influence how we understand our Heavenly Father? How can we make sure we have the right view of our Heavenly Father?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*