

Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? (Galatians 3:1-3)

We know very well that we are not set right with God by rule-keeping but only through personal faith in Jesus Christ ... we believed in Jesus as the Messiah so that we might be set right before God by trusting in the Messiah, not by trying to be good. (Galatians 2:16-19 MSG)

√ **Confusion and Frustration**

I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. (Romans 7:15)

√ **Discouragement and Defeat**

The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. (Galatians 5:17)

Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? (Romans 7:24)

1. **Be honest about the problem**

The Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ. (Galatians 3:22)

2. **Believe that Jesus can change me**

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. (Galatians 3:26-27)

3. **Depend on His power**

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves ... the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

Icebreaker (Choose 1 or more to get the conversation going)

1. What was your favorite television show growing up?
2. What is your most embarrassing phobia?

Application Questions: (Choose 3 or more to discuss)

1. **Read Galatians 3.** Discuss anything specific that stuck out to you. Engage conversation about what God is showing each LG member.
2. **Otis.** Pastor Micah reminisced about how Otis used to lock himself up on the Andy Griffith Show. What in your life has you locked up? Is there something that you are locking yourself out of? What needs to happen for you to let go?
3. **Read Galatians 3:1.** What was it like getting the 'evil eye' from your parents growing up? Is there someone in your life now that can still give you the evil eye? How does the expectations of others lock you up?
4. **Read Galatians 2:16-19.** What is the biggest difference in your mind between trying and trusting? How does the principle of trust instead of try affect your relationships? What is the hardest part about trusting?
5. **Read Romans 7:15.** Have you ever made a mistake and questioned why you did it? Has there been a time when you wanted to do something right but just 'couldn't'? How does Romans 7:15 give you clarity/perspective on this?
6. **Be honest about the problem.** Is there something you are going through that needs to be brought in the light? What do you keep going back to? *(take the opportunity to pray for the group for boldness and strength, that God would stir for your LG members to be vulnerable and communicate their current struggle, remember what Pastor Micah said, In order to stop defeating yourself you have to stop deceiving yourself)*
7. **Free meals.** Has someone ever paid for your meal before? How did you react/process the generosity? Did you respond in a generous way somewhere else in life? *(remind your LG that this is the picture Jesus has given us, all we can do is get up from the table with gratitude and go be generous/gracious to others)*
8. **Trying vs. Trusting.** What else in life have you tried to bring you freedom/peace? What have those searches resulted in?