

UNFILTERED

WEEK 2 GROUP GUIDE

DON'T FORGET WHERE
THIS CAME FROM

MESSAGE RECAP

GALATIANS 1:11-2:10

In Galatians 1:11–2:10, Paul reminds the church that the gospel didn't come from people—it came from Jesus. Because the gospel belongs to Jesus, we don't have the authority to add requirements, traditions, or expectations that make faith more difficult or turn freedom into slavery.

Paul also points to his own story. His past was marked by religious zeal and even persecution, but God's grace completely changed his direction. His past didn't disqualify him; God used it as part of his testimony and calling.

Finally, Paul reminds us who the gospel is for: everyone. The message of Jesus is not something we keep for ourselves or make difficult for others to receive. We are called to be a "Go and Be" people—living out the gospel, loving our neighbors, investing in the next generation, and helping others encounter the freedom and grace of Jesus.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Do you have a favorite meal? Do you use a recipe or just throw it together?
- Sometimes we add our own "ingredients" to the Gospel. Have you ever seen someone try to add something to the gospel? How did that work for them?
- Read Galatians 1:11-12
 - What's the danger of adding to the gospel?
- Read Galatians 1:13-16
 - Paul's plans changed. Have you ever had a "but God" experience? What was it?
 - Have you ever felt pressure to perform spiritually? What helped you remember God's grace?
- Read Galatians 2:1-5 together
 - The Galatians were trying to say that you needed to be circumcised to receive the gospel. How can it sometimes be easy to just follow the crowd and add things to the gospel?
- Why can sharing the gospel be hard sometimes?
- Jonathon talked about a "Come and See" vs a "Go and Be" church. How can we be a "Go and Be" church?
- End your time in prayer together

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GOING DEEPER

Acts 9:1-22

We know Paul as one of the great writers, leaders and missionaries of the Early Church. He's the guy who wrote a large portion of the New Testament. We now follow many of the teachings of Paul and apply them to our lives today.

But Paul wasn't always a great Christian leader. In fact, he actually spent a good chunk of his life persecuting Christians and participating in their persecution. He was an devout Pharisee (they followed Jewish law very closely) and completely opposed the Christian Church. Before he followed Jesus, he went mostly by Saul. Saul was his Jewish name, and Paul was his Greek name.

Saul held a lot of the "rules" of Judaism. He worked hard to rid the world of Christians, until one day he found himself blind. A light from heaven flashed around him and he heard the voice of the Lord ask "Saul, why are you persecuting me?". This voice was Jesus.

Saul then was instructed to go into the city. He was unable to see for three whole days! He entered into the house of Ananias, where Ananias was instructed by God to lay his hands on Saul so that he would regain his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Then- scales fell from Saul's eyes. SCALES!

Immediately after this, Saul proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God. This man who just weeks ago was throwing Christians in prison for saying this very thing- was now shouting this from the rooftops.

Now, this story might sound unbelievable, but God was doing something incredible.

Because of this conversion and his obedience to God- we now have many of the letters that fill the New Testament. Paul is still affecting lives through his writings and helping proclaim the name of Jesus in the 21st century.

Let this be a great reminder to you that you are never too far away from the Lord for Him to use you for His Kingdom. God transforms us and calls us to follow Him.

For more on Paul's Conversion- see Acts 22:6-21 and Acts 26:9-21