

Transition: Paul writes this letter to encourage those who have backslidden; they were forgetting the early teachings of the Apostles and returned to a “works” based religion. He tells them how he had received revelation; it was from God, not from man. He seeks to remind them of the one true gospel and his authority to teach and rebuke them based on a calling and instruction from God.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where do you find truth?
2. How has your view of what truth is evolved over time? Why?
3. Each person write down “What is the Gospel?” and then share what you wrote
4. What is backslide and what might cause you to backslide?

Fundamental: We have a responsibility to study the Word of God (the Bible) for ourselves. We have the Holy Spirit in us to teach us. You cannot earn merit with God by doing good works. Your good deeds do not contribute to your salvation. Therefore, be humble. God gets all of the credit for salvation, and we get none. So, we must give Him all the praise.

Homework/Challenge:

1. Ask a friend (Believer or unbeliever) what truth do they stand on?
2. This week research your church's doctrines and put a check mark by those you agree with and a question mark by any that you do not believe.
3. Memorize: Galatians 1:9 “As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed”

Discipleship Tip: It is easy to watch videos or Christian programs, but it is important that you test their words against scripture. Make a plan to read the Bible in one year. Begin in Genesis, then go to Matthew, then to the Psalms or Proverbs. Do this each day!

Prayer: Lord, you have given us amazing teachings throughout the Bible; help me to stand on them even when challenged by others. Help me to say “The Bible says”: rather than “I believe...”