

Transition: Paul has been stressing that we are saved by faith alone, nothing added. When the law was given by Moses, the people of Israel swore to uphold it. Furthermore, they willingly agreed to the terms, which included a curse if they failed to maintain it. Here Paul goes on to explain why the law was given in the first place, as a temporary guide marking the need for guidance until Jesus.

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. Who is under a curse? Why? What kind of curse is this?
2. How are we all prisoners of sin?
3. What covenant is he referencing? And why is that important to us today?
4. Why is baptism important according to verse 27?

Fundamental:

Once Jesus came the Law was no longer our tutor because Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law. We are under the New Covenant, and place our faith in the Rock, Christ Jesus. No one who relies on the law is justified before God – Our works cannot save us. If they could, Jesus would not have come. Here, Paul again points out that true righteousness comes by faith.

Homework/Challenge:

1. Ask your family if there has been a time when you have made a promise and not kept it and then ask for forgiveness
2. Memorize at least 5 promises from God (i.e.- Philippians 4:19)
3. Pray and ask God to help you live in confidence of his word and his faithfulness

Discipleship Tip:

Be careful when asked to do something like pray for something, go somewhere, help with something, that you follow through. A promise equals your word, just as Jesus' promises are His Word!

Prayer: Lord thank you that Your promises are "Yay and Amen" and you are faithful to keep the promises that are in your Word. Help me to claim them as if they were a check signed by Jesus!"