

Transition: Paul is making sure that what he is teaching aligns with the message of the apostles. Some false believers snuck in and were imposing the belief that circumcision was a must for Titus, but Paul resisted, defending freedom in the gospel. Paul's mission to the gentiles was recognized by James, Peter and John and affirmed that Paul was indeed teaching an accurate gospel account regarding faith in Jesus alone and encouraged him to keep on helping the poor.

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. Do you think you Fear God more than you fear man when you make decisions?
2. Discuss what the "Fear of God" means
3. Peter changed his behavior based on the people around him, can you remember a time where you changed your Christian behavior just to fit in? What was the driving reason for that? What can you do different next time?
4. Would you have the boldness to confront someone who is saying one thing and living another?

Fundamental: We tend to listen to those people who are esteemed in the eyes of the church. But people (including church leaders) can be deceived by Satan. Paul is warning believers to be careful who you listen to and be sure to check what they say with the Bible. It is important to be bold and to stand for the truth. It is also essential to be wise. We strive to cultivate relationships built in love, that provides encouragement, honesty, approachability, and accountability. Even with leaders!

Homework/Challenge:

1. Why is it important to understand justification by faith in Christ not by the law?
2. Share in pairs what you think a "crucified believer" looks like
3. Ask a friend (but check yourself first) if there is any area in their life that is not walking with integrity as they follow Jesus.

Discipleship Tip:

When you read the Bible, ask the questions: who, when, why, how?

Prayer: "Lord, I want to walk with integrity, show me any area that is a stumbling block to others or a stumbling block to my spiritual growth as I seek to follow Christ.