



## **Session 5: Paul's Authority and Proofs for Justification by Faith**

### **READ:**

Galatians 1:11–4:31; Genesis 12:1-8; Genesis 15:1-6

### **CONNECT: A Favorite Book in the Bible**

What is one of your favorite books in the Bible? Why?

### **WATCH: Background of the Letter to the Galatians**

As you watch the video, fill in the following:

According to the video, what did Paul design the epistle to do?

#### **A. Historical Proofs**

List the historical accounts that prove Paul's authority:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### **B. Abraham's Faith**

Paul refers to Genesis 15:6 in this way: "Abraham 'believed God, and it was \_\_\_\_\_ to him as righteousness.'"

According to Paul, Genesis 12:3 anticipated that the gospel or good news of Christ would justify Gentiles who did what?

What is the third point in Paul's argument that salvation comes through faith in Christ apart from good works?

The false teachers in Galatia had lost sight of what crucial fact about obedience?

Abraham's inheritance did not come to all of Abraham's children individually, but to Isaac who was the \_\_\_\_\_ of those who followed.

### C. Current Experience

What had the Galatians lost?

### **DISCUSS**

- What is something that stood out to you from the video?
- Why was it important for Paul to prove his authority as an apostle at the beginning of this letter?
- Read Genesis 11:27–12:3.
  - What parts of God’s promises do you imagine would have been most surprising to Abraham?
  - If you were Abraham, what would have taken the most faith for you to believe?
  - In what ways have God’s promises to Abraham already been fulfilled?
- How do you imagine the content of this letter might have affected you if you were one of the original recipients?
- How could you present Paul’s arguments to people today to help them understand that they should look only to Christ for right standing before God?

### **STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART: Christ and the Gospel**

- According to Galatians 1:3-4, what did Christ’s death accomplish for the believers in Galatia?
- In Galatians 1:6-9, Paul says the Galatians are turning to a different, perverted gospel. According to Paul, and what you have seen in the video, what makes the difference between the true gospel — or “good news” as it’s sometimes translated — and the perverted gospel?
- Read Isaiah 52:7-9. What stands out to you from the passage?

### **APPLY:**

- How do you evaluate the validity of competing truth claims?
- Where has this study encouraged you in your faith?
- Where has it challenged you? What do you want to do as a result?