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session page

Prepositional Problems

Galatians 2:15-21 | Session 8.24

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).

Context

Optionally share this eighteen-second video: ["I don't think that means what you think it means"](#) then ask:

- I understand that this is an invitation to be a bit assiduous about other people's impecunious vocabulary, but what are some words that you think people commonly misuse?

Share this list of [words whose usage has changed](#) then continue by asking:

- Which of these changed meanings most surprised you and why?
- What are some words whose original meaning you might use anyway, despite the way everyone else seems to use them, and why?
- To what degree does the original usage of a word matter if it is widely used to mean something else?

Content

Read [Galatians 2:15-21](#), then watch the Bible Background Video.

Ask questions like these:

- What words stand out to you in this text and why?
- What do you understand when you hear the phrase “through faith in Jesus Christ”?
- What is the difference the idea of “faith in Christ” and “faith of Christ,” as you understand the terms?
- To what degree do you think it is useful to study the wording of these texts so carefully and why?
- In what ways does knowing that this passage stems from Paul responding to an argument with Peter over the nature of salvation affect the way you wrestle with the difficult wording?
- What message of “good news” do you find when you read this passage?

Closure

Continue by asking:

- What scriptural words carry a lot of theological weight, in your opinion and why?
- What are some ideas in scripture with which you have wrestled?
- At what points do you tend to cautiously avoided wrestling with certain ideas found in scripture and why?
- What do you think of this quote and why: *What if the Christian faith is supposed to exist in a variety of forms rather than just one imperial one? What if it is both more stable and more agile—more responsive to the Holy Spirit—when it exists in these many forms? And what if, instead of arguing about which form is correct and legitimate, we were to honor, appreciate, and validate one another and see ourselves as servants of one grander mission, apostles of one greater message, seekers on one ultimate quest?* - Brian D. McLaren

Close the conversation with this challenge from [Nadia Bolz Weber](#):

**People of God, do not worry because we have this Word. **

That there is a God who created us and all that is, this same God spoke through prophets and poets, claimed a people to be God's own and freed them from the shackles of slavery. This same God led those people through the wilderness to a land of milk and honey, and told them to always welcome the stranger and protect the foreigner so that they could remember where they came from and what God had done for them. Then in the fullness of time, and to draw ALL people to himself, God came and broke our hearts like only a baby could do and made God's home in the womb of a fierce young woman as though God was saying, from now on this is how I want to be known. And as Jesus, God the Son kissed lepers and befriended prostitutes and baffled authority. Jesus ate with all the wrong people and on the night before he died, he gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom. He held up bread and told us to do the same thing and he promised us so much: that he would be with us, that forgiveness is real, that we are God's, that people matter and that death is done for and that after a tough resurrection, grilled fish makes an awesome breakfast.

Pray together to end the session.

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