

## Free – The Promise of Freedom

Weekend Discussion Questions

July 19-20, 2014

### Community:

1. What's the best free meal that you've ever had from a restaurant? Why was it free?

### Core:

1. To recap the last couple of weeks, what does it mean for Christians to be "free"—how would you explain that to a friend who doesn't follow Jesus?
2. How does the theme "Free" encapsulate what Paul was telling the church in Galatians?
3. Look at part of another letter Paul wrote, in Ephesians 2:8-9. How would you define "grace"? How would you define "faith"?
4. How does that verse relate to the theme "Free"?
5. In the letter to the Galatians, Paul is addressing some themes and misunderstandings that are traced through Israel's heritage all the way back to Abraham in Genesis. We're going to look at a place in Genesis 12 where God makes a covenant with Abraham, but before we do, answer: What is a covenant? What's an example of a covenant between two people? What's an example of a covenant between God and people?
6. Now read Genesis 12:2-3, and then Genesis 17:7. What is the covenant God makes to Abraham? How did that apply to Abraham's family?
7. Look at Genesis 15:6. What did Abraham have to do to uphold the covenant?
8. Paul extensively refers to circumcision in the letter to the Galatians. Read where this practice originated among the Israelites in Genesis 17:10-11 and verse 14. Why do you think that this was such a big deal during that time period?
9. What does it mean that circumcision was a "sign of the covenant" between God and Israel? How is a "sign of the covenant" different than a condition for the covenant?
10. Now read what Paul writes about this in Galatians 3:24-27. What does it mean that the law was "our guardian"?
11. Why do we no longer need a guardian like the law if we are following Jesus by faith?

### Challenge:

1. Do you view the way that you live and the choices you make as signs of your relationship with God, or conditions of your relationship with God?
2. What would change in your life if you knew that your relationship with God wasn't contingent on your behavior?
3. Pray that God would continue to help you accept grace through faith alone.