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# F R E E D O M

A NINE-PART SERMON SERIES ON THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

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DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 7 (November 16-22)

## CHILDREN OF FREEDOM

### WELCOME.

### WORSHIP.

**Sing:** *SONG OF THE SAINTS* (Phil Wickham)

### WORD.

**Introduction:** Paul moves on to describe the two covenants using the allegory of Abraham's two sons, Ishmael and Isaac, to illustrate the difference between being under the law and being under grace through faith in Christ. It contrasts the "children of the flesh" (earning God's favor through law-keeping) with the "children of promise" (those who receive God's favor through faith in Christ)..

**Scripture:** GALATIANS 4:21-31

#### Dig Deep into God's Word:

1. What do Sarah and Hagar represent in this allegory?
2. What is the significance of the contrast between the son born "according to the flesh" and the son born "through the promise"?
3. Before the Galatians truly gave themselves over to the Law, what did Paul ask them to consider? (4:21)
4. What was the difference in status between Abraham's two sons? (4:22)
5. In what way did Hagar typify first-century Jerusalem? (4:25)
6. How was Sarah an example of the "Jerusalem that is above"? (4:26-27)
7. How did Paul compare Ishmael's persecution of Isaac to the legalists' opposition to the Christians? (4:29-30) (verses 8-11).

### WORK.

#### Apply God's Word:

1. How does this allegory of Abraham's son help you in understanding the difference between Law and grace?
2. In what ways do Christians try to impose extra-biblical standards and rules on one another?
3. Are Christians still bound to follow rules or are we free to do whatever we want? Support your answer biblically.
4. Which of your own rules or personal standards are you tempted to require of others?