



Boasting in the Cross

WEEK 5

Alpha Prayer Points

- Fall morning Alpha concludes December 21. Pray that in these last weeks that the eyes of the blind will be opened and that those who were in the dark will see the light of Christ.
- Pray for energy, strength, and spiritual protection for those participating in and serving with Alpha, and for all to be led by the Spirit .
- Continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of those who came to Spring 2023 Alpha and who are meeting now in twice-monthly post-Alpha groups. Pray that as they learn and experience Spiritual Practices, they would feel drawn to the love of Jesus.

How Did it Go?

10 Minutes

PROVIDE SUPPORTS, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO ONE ANOTHER FOR PUTTING THE WORD OF GOD INTO PRACTICE. TOGETHER, FIND WAYS TO LIVE OUT THE SCRIPTURE.

- What from the study last week were you able to put into practice this week? For example, did you make it a habit to “do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Gal 10:6)?
- Did anything get in the way between you and living out the word of God that you studied last week? If so, what? How can you intentionally plan to counteract that this week?
- Have you taken the opportunity to invite someone you know to an advent activity?

Read Aloud

Passage for this week: **GALATIANS 6:11-18.**

Head

15-20 Minutes

OBSERVE THE TEXT AND THE AUTHOR'S MAIN POINTS

1. Paul goes to great lengths to show that this communication is from him in Galatians 6:11. Why is this important to him? To us?
2. What is the motivation of the people who want to compel believers to be circumcised?
3. In what subject is it appropriate to boast according to Paul? What would that look like?
4. Discuss how Gal 6:15 sums up Paul's argument in Galatians.
5. Galatians is one of Paul's last letters. In what ways might Paul's body bear "the marks of Jesus" (Gal 6:17)?

Heart

15-20 Minutes

ENVISION HOW THE TEXT—WHEN APPLIED—MIGHT TRANSFORM YOUR INNER LIFE IN TERMS OF YOUR THOUGHTS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIORS

1. Looking back over the sermon series and study of Galatians, what lessons will stay with you? How has the study of Galatians impacted your life? How do you plan to keep its message alive in your life? Discuss this with your small group, and incorporate these thoughts into your prayers and actions this week and after.
2. Do any of your words or actions imply boasting in something other than the cross? If so, how? What can you do to resist this temptation? As you discuss, ask the Holy Spirit to help you to identify and resist this temptation.

Hands

10 Minutes

**APPLY THE TEXT BY MOVING FROM INWARD REFLECTION TO OUTWARD ACTION
LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LIVE THE TEXT OUT IN OUR LIVES. THESE ARE SPECIFIC,
CONCRETE EXAMPLES BUT THEY ARE NOT THE ONLY WAY - THEY ARE IDEA-STARTERS
FOR HOW TO PUT THE WORD OF GOD INTO PRACTICE.**

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Thank God for specific ways He has taught you and specific ways He has changed you through this study of Galatians.

- Slowly re-read Galatians several times in the next few days and weeks. Ask God to impress on you the insights He wants you to remember and what He wants you to give attention to as a result of this study. Then sit quietly and listen to God.

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- Invite your neighbors to one of the many upcoming Advent activities, including Christmas Eve services. For details, go to <https://fpchouston.org/worship/advent-2023>.
- What other ways can you bring the gospel to life for your neighbors and neighborhood?

Reaching Beyond

- Discuss practical ways to live by the rule that Paul mentions in vv. 6:15-16. Commit to action one of the ways that appeals to you.
- As this study concludes, be aware of a regularly updated list of upcoming FPC outreach opportunities <https://fpchouston.org/serve/ways-to-serve/upcoming-opportunities>, and develop a habit to join some of them on your own or with your small group.
- Volunteers are needed for set up and all shopping days for the 22nd annual FPC Advent Missions Market held Sundays December 3, 10, and 17 from 8 AM - 1:00 PM in Palm Court. The market offers unique crafts from global partner artisans worldwide that make excellent Christmas gifts. Sales provide support and awareness for FPC global ministry partners. To learn more or sign up as a volunteer, please email Mary-Floye Federer at mffederer@fpchouston.org.