

SMALL GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **February 16, 2014 Sermon** (4 minutes), “Children of God’s Promise, Part 2.” Please read the sermon passage (Galatians 4:21-31) together out loud.

Small Group Questions (Galatians 4:21-31)

Sermon Outline:

1. **God’s gracious promise has been established historically (vv 21-23)**
 - a. We begin with the authority of the Scriptures.
 - b. God will not allow counterfeit plans to stand—not even your counterfeit plans.
 - c. God has always and will always keep all of his promises perfectly.
2. **God’s gracious promise can be taken allegorically (vv 24-27)**
 - a. Hagar/Ishmael > Mount Sinai > Bondage > Works which cannot save
 - b. Sarai/Isaac > Jerusalem above (heaven) > Freedom > Salvation by grace
3. **God’s gracious promise must be applied personally (vv 28-31)**
 - a. We should expect persecution (especially from those enslaved to the law)
 - b. We should expect that the children of the promise (grace-based) receive inheritance.
 - c. We should expect that the children of the slave (legalists, “Judaizers”) are turned away.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. How does the fact that the promises of Christianity are based on historical and archeological facts influence the way you discuss it with doubters, “religionists,” friends and neighbors?
2. How has God toppled your counterfeit plans—even when they appeared to be very similar to his own plans and promise?
3. The unrest between “child of the promise” and “child of the law” exists in the world to this day. How does understanding #2 (a. and b.) above help you understand the conflict in the Middle East?
4. Children of promise should expect something—and we think it should be good (for us). But the first expectation we see from this passage is that we should expect persecution from our “half brothers,” the children of the slave woman (religious unbelievers). Do you truly expect persecution?
5. Well meaning and sincere children of the slave woman represent legalists. Those legalists will not receive second chances or high marks for good effort. They will be “cast out” and they will “not inherit” the promises of God. How does this impact the way you interact with well-meaning legalists in this world? How does this impact the way you raise your kids?