

COVID-19 PARENTS AND STUDENTS BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

STUDENTS

BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE.

Session 4

DEALING WITH MESSY RELATIONSHIPS

Serve // Galatians 5:13-15; 6:1-5,10



ONE SHEET

THE POINT: Seize the opportunity to serve.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Good customer service is not about making a sale or even earning loyalty. It's about doing what's right to serve the customer in a meaningful way. In our session, we're not talking about customers and good business—we're learning about relationships, and the principle still applies. We strengthen our relationships when we serve the other person, not because of some hidden agenda or because we want something in return. Serving is a tangible way we're called to reflect the love of God to others in our lives.

► **When have you received excellent service?**

GALATIANS 5:13-15

We all want to feel free, but sin so easily entangles us and keeps us from experiencing the freedom available in Jesus. In Galatians 5, Paul reminds us that a revolution has come through Christ. Because of Jesus' perfect sacrifice, the power of sin that once enslaved us has been broken, and we can be free from the control of sin in our lives. Paul knew that we would find the only remedy for the flesh in an ongoing relationship with Christ. As we focus on Christ, we also are to focus on those He has brought into our lives. We are called to use our freedom in Christ to love and serve people. While the ultimate result of Jesus' death and resurrection is the forgiveness of sin and a relationship with God, there are also other benefits. It changes the way we feel about ourselves—no more guilt and shame. Further, it changes the way we see others. We are free to focus not on ourselves, but on others, loving people and expressing that love through serving them.

► **What is the connection between freedom in Christ and the command to serve?**

► **How have others served you in meaningful ways?**

GALATIANS 6:1-5

Paul challenged the church to gently, lovingly, and honestly serve others by helping them see the ways they were getting off course. This process requires a lot of prayer, but it must be a part of healthy relationships. When we help others identify areas of weakness, we are to be willing to help them to grow. Strong relationships call for us to help carry loads. Life is difficult, and there are times when we all need help. In return, we're happy to help when others struggle with their loads. This, of course, requires appropriate honesty and soul-bearing. We all need to be willing to share about our needs, and we need to be open to others helping us see our blind spots. After all, people cannot help you lift something they don't know about. And one day we will all stand before Jesus and answer for the ways we helped others and the humility we showed in inviting others to help us grow in honoring Him.

► **Why is a gentle spirit important in the process of restoration?**

► **What does carrying one another's burdens look like?**

GALATIANS 6:10

Christians are challenged to invest in the lives of our church family. In verse 10, Paul shared that we are called to demonstrate love to all people. However, he stressed the importance of doing good to other believers. This certainly doesn't mean we ignore the needs of those outside the church. Sowing good seed in the lives of lost people is incredibly important. But just as a person cares for his immediate family before he takes care of the neighbors (1 Tim. 5:8), believers must make it a priority to care for their brothers and sisters in Christ. This serves as a great witness to those outside the church. No two Christians are exactly the same. We are all gifted in special ways to serve the church. We are all different in terms of our needs and our gifts, but each of us is equally called to "work for the good of all." All that remains for us to do is to open our hearts and eyes to see others' needs and the opportunities to serve—and then to make it happen!

► **How can we structure our lives to be ready to serve others?**

► **How does service act as a witness to lost people?**