

# Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Oct 7, 2018



Pastor Hall 8:15, Pastor Temple 9:30, 10:55

## Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about the past week? About follow-ups from last Sunday's message, will you serve Him as your Lord?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener: When you think about who has been a good friend to you in the past, what kind of qualities or personal actions come to mind?

## Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Galatians 6:1-10. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

**Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. <sup>2</sup>Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup>If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup>Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, <sup>5</sup>for each one should carry their own load.**

**<sup>6</sup>Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor. <sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup>Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup>Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.**

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- How is baptism not just an individual experience, but a community experience as well?
- What kind of roles may the witnesses have both at the time of the worship service and in the future with the baptized (see verses 1-2 and 10)?
- John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, was known to advise the people of the church to “do good in every way possible in every possible degree to all people” and to those within the church, to “watch over one another in love.” What are some of the ways you have witnessed this happening in the church lately?
- How would you describe the ministry of an encourager?

### **Another Related Scripture (10 min)**

- Would a volunteer please read Acts 11:21-26. Barnabas (whose name means encouragement), is said here to be “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith.” How do you envision the Holy Spirit and faith operating together in the life of an encourager to bless others?
- Saul (Paul) and Barnabas met with the church in Antioch, where disciples were first called “Christians,” and taught great numbers of people (verses 26). Why do you believe serving with two or more people at a time is a good idea?
- Barnabas helped two different people in moments of great need- Saul right after his conversion when others doubted him and feared hidden intentions (Acts 9:26-28), and John Mark when Saul (Paul) wanted to exclude John Mark from his ministry (Acts 15:36-41). How do we know when God is calling us to intervene in someone’s life in direct ways?
- What were the positive results of Barnabas’s interventions? (hint: look at the names of the books of the New Testament in your Bible table of contents!)

### **Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)**

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon and in the reflections upon the additional scripture above?
- While we may not be able to “help everybody” with the limited resources that we have, how can we carry a disposition of the heart which honors everyone around us as people made in God’s image?
- In what way is this too “bearing one another’s burdens?”
- How might we best help children who are baptized in the church in growing in their faith?
- Would you care to share about what you did with the postcard in your bulletin?

### **Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)**

- Who do you believe you could reach out to this week, who may be in particular need for encouragement?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.