



**Reaching,  
Restoring,  
Raising Up**

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**We're on the Web!**  
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**L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Revelation of the King**

Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.

1. Share the best Christmas you ever had and what made it so special.
2. Read Isaiah 9:6. Talk about some of the “wonders” Jesus has brought about in your life.
3. Discuss how the 1) deceitfulness of the heart, or the 2) deficiency of the mind, or the 3) devices of Satan have made it difficult to make decisions at times. How can we let Jesus help?
4. Share some of the pressing demands of your life right now. Specifically talk about how Jesus’ strength can be utilized to deal with these—use personal illustrations.
5. Discuss how Jesus as our everlasting Father and as our Prince of Peace can calm us in the stressful times of life.
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find  
Yours Below and Join Us!**

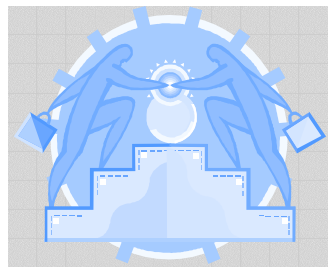
**Adult Bible Fellowships—Times and Places**

**9:00**

- Married Adults 39-46, led by Jerry Sims, Room 205-6**
- Married Adults 47up, led by Jan Christensen, Room 201**
- Master Your Money, led by Matt Lux (on break currently)**

**10:45**

- Open Adults ABF, Led by Ralph & Nelle Hixson, Room 104**
- Open Women ABF, Led by Karen Byrum, Room 112**
- Adults 18-31, Led by Steve & Mary Jones, Room 201-2**
- Nexus ABF (Single Adults), Led by Jay Reynolds, Room 203**
- Adults 32-38, Led by Jim Miller, Room 204**
- “Welcome” ABF, Led by Charlie Anderson/Dave Regis, Room 205**



**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS**  
**- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

**Celebration Fellowship**

**Dec 21, 2003**

Volume 2, Issue 20

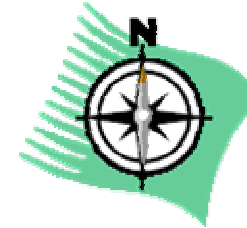
*“Building Your relationship with God through 2 questions a day”*

**LifeGuide 20**

ABF Study Questions

**It's the Real Thing**

Introduction to Dec 21-27, 2003



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**ABF Mission:**

**Adult Bible Fellowships exist to help people discover and apply God's Word to their lives, and to connect with others in the process**

**ABF Core Values:**

- The guide for successful living is found in God's Word, the Bible.
- Everyone can understand the Bible with God's help.
- Life application of God's truth is our goal.
- People discover God's truth best through interaction with others.
- People need the support of others to make life work successfully.
- There are no dumb questions, and they all deserve God's answers.

Of the 78 slogans that Coca Cola has used in its 117 years of marketing, *“It's the Real Thing”* is the only one it has used repeatedly. We all want the “genuine” article—it's something in which we can trust. The study in Galatians, which begins in the coming week, touches on this very issue. A group of deceivers had infiltrated the churches of Galatia and had begun adding to the “real” or true gospel. This group, known as “Judaizers”, held that just “believing in Jesus” wasn't enough to be right with God; the keeping of the Jewish law also had to be added to this belief. The apostle Paul, who had been



The “good news” about Jesus changed the world forever!!

used of God to lead these Galatians into a personal relationship with Jesus, rejected this thought. He knew that any requirement beyond simple faith in Christ for salvation would cause the gospel to cease to be good news. Writing to these Galatians, he pointed out that God had personally revealed this truth

to him, and that all of the Christian leaders had affirmed it as God's revelation. Unfortunately, even Peter, the other chief apostle, had been “sucked in” by these Judaizers and was avoiding Gentile believers; when Paul confronted him about it he had nothing to say. The truth was that they both agreed that a relationship with God came about through faith in Jesus, and not by doing good things. In a spiritual sense we have “died” to “rule-keeping” as a means of being right with God, and we can completely rely on Christ who now lives in us. This is truly something to build a life on—the true gospel...it's the “real thing”.

**(Dec 14-20, 2003)**

**“Leaking Vision”**

Among leaders there is an accepted truth that vision tends to “leak”. Instead of focusing on the real “business” they are in, people naturally forget the “preferred future” and take the lines of least resistance. As Joshua approached the end of his life he feared this would happen, so he gave 2 speeches to compellingly pass God's will on to the next group of leaders. He 1st called for all Israel, represented by their leaders, to gather so he could address them. He reminded them of all that God had done for them—but also encouraged them to finish the work that God had started. Having destroyed the cities,

they now needed to “possess” the land by driving out its inhabitants—and the only way they could do this was by God's strength. Their success would be insured as they maintained their devotion to Him—obeying all of Moses' law, clinging to the Lord alone, and being diligent to love the Lord. Negatively they were to avoid associations with the Canaanites, especially inter-marriage, to refrain from worshipping or serving their false gods, and from forcing others to do so. Obeying God was the sanest course to take since it had already led to His miraculous defeat through them of great and strong nations; and, since disobedi-

ence would cause God to stop driving out the Canaanites before them. They would then ensnare Israel, becoming whips in their sides and thorns in their eyes, and Israel would eventually perish from the land God had given to them. Joshua reiterated that all God had promised had been fulfilled; and, conversely, His stated consequences for disobedience would be just as certain. This was not harsh, for Moses had warned them of this earlier, and it would be their choice, and not God's, that would trigger these penalties. Similarly, we, too, will reap what we sow. God is not to be blamed for the consequences of our actions. Sometime later (cont pg 2)

## Joshua—Week 20

(continued from pg 1)

Joshua gathered Israel and their leaders to Shechem for his 2nd speech—an official “renewal” of their covenant with the Lord that Moses had led them to make. Significantly, Shechem was where God had 1st promised the land to Abraham and his descendants. God had fulfilled His part; so now, at the end of his life, Joshua wanted to be sure that Israel fulfilled their part of the covenant. As was typical of those kind of agreements in that day, Joshua began by reviewing how God had blessed them. He had taken Abraham from an idolatrous people and had led him through Canaan, while multiplying his descendants. God had given Esau a mountain, and had led his twin brother, Jacob (Israel) down to Egypt. He then liberated Israel the nation from Egypt, by leading them through the Red Sea, and by preserving them for 40 years in the wilderness of Sinai. Considering that this story began with the call of Abraham from a pagan people, the sovereign grace of God is clearly seen. The generation to whom Joshua spoke had seen God bless them by defeating the kings east of the Jordan, even using hornets to accomplish this. God had refused to allow Balaam to curse them, then had led Israel to defeat Jericho, and the rest of the kingdoms of Canaan. Finally, he al-

lowed them to possess a lush land that they had not even cultivated. This story shows that when God calls His people, He does everything needed to preserve them as His promise is fulfilled. In light of this Joshua called them to fear the Lord and serve Him sincerely and truthfully by ridding themselves of the idols that had been worshipped since Abraham and Egypt. It was time to decide, based on which one had given them the best “results”, and to serve that one. Joshua encouraged them to follow the Lord by affirming that he and his house had decided to do just that. The people quickly said that it would be wrong to serve false gods, saying they, too, would follow the Lord because truly His blessings on them had been great. However, Joshua said



**“When God calls His people, He does everything needed to preserve them.”**

they wouldn’t be able to do this, because God, being holy, wouldn’t allow them to keep serving other gods; they agreed, and again they firmly said they would serve the Lord. This shows that commitments must not be made lightly, but with a genuine understanding of the cost involved. So the people verbally agreed to renew the covenant, and to put away their false gods; then Joshua wrote down their words in a book as a witness, burying it under a stone near the sanctuary. In the same way we should make note of spiritual markers in our lives, and revisit them to keep our commitments to God fresh on our minds. After this the deaths of Joshua and Eleazar, the High Priest, are recorded, and their burials, along with Joseph’s, are noted. While they might have been fearful as their two great leaders had now died, yet the fulfillment of Joseph’s faith-request to bury his bones in the promised land must have encouraged them that God would continue to fulfill His promises even with these great men gone. As this book has shown, God always fulfills His Word as we walk in faith and obedience to His Word. He fights for us, but calls us to participate. He calls us to possess our land by faith and to refuse to tolerate sin in our midst. He reminds us that the only sensible course in life is to follow Him completely.

## Week 20 Study Questions - Dec 21-27, 2003

(Galatians 1-2)

*The very heart of the gospel is at stake as Paul defends it against the Jewish legalists.*

1. Read Galatians 1:1-2. To whom does Paul write (v2) and with whom does he write (v2)? How does he identify himself (v1), how did this happen (v1), and why would this be important in defending the true gospel?

2. In Galatians 1:3-5 what does Paul want for these churches (v3), and what is the basis for this expectation (v4)? What is the purpose for receiving “grace and peace” (v5)? How can we apply this?

3. From Galatians 1:6-10 what was Paul surprised about (v6), and what had caused this (v7, 9)? How did Paul evaluate this false message (v8-9)? What was his attitude (v10) and what did this allow him to do?

4. Look at Galatians 1:11-17. Describe how Paul received the true gospel (v11-12, 15-17). How did this give greater credibility to the gospel he preached?

5. Using Galatians 1:18-24 how does Paul show that his gospel wasn’t derived from any man’s opinion (v18-22), and why was this important? What was the popular impression of Paul at that time (v24)?

6. Read Galatians 2:1-3. What did Paul do after 14 years of preaching the true gospel to the Gentiles (v1-2) and what was the initial reaction by the Jerusalem Christian leaders (v3)?

7. From Galatians 2:4-10 whom did Paul have to confront (v4), and why (v5)? What response did the leading Jerusalem Christians have to Paul’s reaction (v6-10), and what does this show about the gospel (v8)?

8. In Galatians 2:11-14, over what hypocrisy did Paul confront Peter (12) and what effect was it having on others (v13)? Why were their actions hypocritical (v14-15)? What does this teach us?

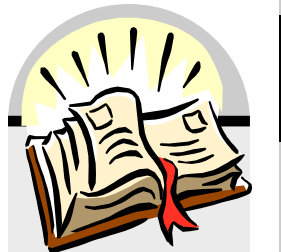
9. Looking at Galatians 2:16-18 upon what basis are we justified, or made right with God (v16), and how does our sin relate to this (v17)? What is the false basis of being right with God (v16) and what happens if we resort to it (v18)?

10. In Galatians 2:19-21 what is the Christian’s relationship to the Law (v19), and how did this occur (v19-20)? What is the result of this in daily life (v20) and how does this validate God’s grace (v21)?

11. From Galatians 1-2 how has Paul shown that he represents the true gospel (1:1, 10; 1:12, 16-17; 2:3; 2:9-10; 2:14)? Describe the false gospel he was opposing (2:14, 16-17, 21).



**“Commitments must not be made lightly, but with a genuine understanding of the cost involved.”**



## Verse To Memorize

**“A man is not justified by the Law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.”**

Galatians 2:16