

**UNLOCKING FREEDOM: A STUDY OF GALATIANS #10**  
**THE ENEMIES OF FREEDOM**  
**GALATIANS 4:21-31**

**GETTING STARTED**

How has considering yourself a son or daughter of the King of the Universe affected life in the last week?

**DIGGING IN**

Read Genesis 15:1-6, 16:1-4, and 21:1-13, and answer the following questions:

- What did God promise to Abraham?
- Why was it hard to believe God's promise?
- What were the major differences between the births of Ishmael and Isaac?
- Why was Abraham reluctant to send Ishmael away when Sarah asked him to do so?
- Why did God say the send Ishmael away?

In Galatians 4:21-31 Paul says that Isaac and Ishmael are "types" representative of spiritual realities for the church. What does Galatians 4:23 say about the difference between the two births?

In Galatians 4:27, Paul quotes Isaiah 54:1. From a natural perspective, does this verse seem to make sense? What do you think Paul is trying to say by quoting this verse—what's the point?

Galatians 4:28 says that the Galatians are "children of promise," like Isaac. Why are the promises of God sometimes hard to believe? Why might some find it easier to trust their own performance?

Paul attempts to find common ground with the Galatians by twice referring to them as "brothers" (v. 28 and v. 31). Why is this important to Paul's overall argument (hint: see Galatians 4:7)? If we were to follow Paul's example, what is the common ground we have with all other believers?

According to verse 30, can the children of promise (freedom/grace) and the children of performance (slavery/law) live together? Why do you think this is the case? What does this mean for the local church?

**LIVING IT OUT**

Why do religious and moralistic people distrust both the gospel and those that teach the gospel?

Why do you think that rules and personal performance have such a persistent appeal to us?

Do you sometimes find it easier to rely on rules and personal performance than to depend on God's promise? Or, how are you personally drawn away from promise-living to performance-living?

Read Galatians 5:1. What are some ways we can "stand firm" in our freedom?

These sermon notes are produced each week for further study and discussion in our small groups. If you are interested in joining a small group, please contact Leslie Ann Yell at [smallgroups@chathamchurch.org](mailto:smallgroups@chathamchurch.org) or 545-9589.