

## The Story of Two Sons Galatians 4:21-5:1

**We put ourselves in our own boxes of legalism.** Galatians 4:21

*"Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law?" (Galatians 4:19)*

Adapted from Tim Keller, Galatians for You, p.117-118

1	2	3	4
<b>Law Obeying Law Relying</b>	<b>Law Disobeying Law Relying</b>	<b>Law Disobeying Not Law Relying</b>	<b>Law Obeying Not Law Relying</b>
Under the law Self-righteous + superior Externally they are sure they are right with God Internally they are insecure Think Pharisees	Believe in the law but they struggle to follow it Guilt-ridden and afraid Believe they need to follow the law, that the law is what saves them, but they can't get their act together	No concern for God or His law, secular and relativistic They choose their moral standards and try to meet them. Their self-righteousness is self-made	Christians who understand the gospel and are living out of the freedom of it Obey the law out of joy More tolerant than #1 More confident than #2 Struggle to live out #4

**God's grace for the barren.** Galatians 4:22-30

*"For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman. But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise." (Galatians 4:22-23)*

**HAGAR**  
'The Bond Woman'

"So Sarai said to Abram, 'Now behold, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her.'  
Genesis 16:1-6

- Law Covenant of Mount Sinai in Arabia
- Present city of Jerusalem
- "In slavery"
- Abraham trusting in himself and his actions as Savior, seeking salvation by our works

**Ishmael**

**ABRAHAM**

**SARAH**  
'The Free Woman'

So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac.  
Genesis 21:1-7

- Representative of the promise, not the law
- The Jerusalem that is above that is free
- Supernatural miracle of God to provide
- Sarah relying on salvation by God's grace

**Isaac**

## God's grace for us all. Galatians 4:31-5:1

*"So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman. It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 4:31-5:1)*

**"Salvation in Christ does not rest in a law that we inevitably break; it rests on a promise that God cannot break."**

Phillip Ryken

## Digging Deeper

Paul is going out of his way in Galatians 4 to make the point that the Galatians cannot take their salvation into their own hands. Throughout Scripture God confounds our assumptions by doing the impossible, whether it is allowing a 90 year old Sarah to give birth to a son of the promise named Isaac, or a virgin named Mary giving birth to our promised Savior named Jesus.

- **The gospel found in Matthew 1**

*"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." (Matthew 1:21-23)*

- **The gospel found in Isaiah 54**

*"Shout for joy, O barren one, you who have borne no child; Break forth into joyful shouting and cry aloud, you who have not travailed; For the sons of the desolate one will be more numerous Than the sons of the married woman," says the Lord." (Isaiah 54:1)*

- **The gospel found in Luke 15**

*"But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'" (Luke 15:29-30)*

- **The gospel found in Matthew 21**

*"Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him..." (Galatians 3:23-24)*

## LifeGroup Discussion

1. As you look at the chart on the front side of this outline, what has been your relationship to obeying the law and relying on the law?
2. We learned today about the heartbreak of Abraham and Sarah taking matters into their own hands with regard to the promise God had made for them to have a son. They made it 10 years before they moved to their own "Plan B" and brought Hagar into the situation. Have you ever given up on God to follow through in your life and taken matters into your own hands? In what ways can you identify with Sarah?
3. Have you ever seen God do the miraculous in your life or the lives of people around you?

## Next Steps

1. **Respond to the good news of Jesus Christ.** Come to the Prayer Points or find any leader at Calvary Church to pray with you about taking a next step toward surrendering to Jesus and living for His Kingdom. Learn more in the booklet "The Way" in the seat racks or visit our website at [calvarylife.org/Jesus](http://calvarylife.org/Jesus)
2. **Connect with others to grow in your faith:** Calvary offers many ways for you to grow as a follower of Jesus. Learn about **Mentoring, LifeGroups, Equipping Classes, Care Ministries** and more by filling out *The Card* and dropping it in the offering or by visiting Connection Point in the Lobby today. [calvarylife.org/grow](http://calvarylife.org/grow)
3. **Share the good news of Jesus with a friend.** Start praying that God will give you love, courage, opportunity and the words to say. Invest and invite your friends and family into a relationship with Jesus.



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