

CAPTIVATED

I
XOY
Σ

Community Group Discussion Guide

July 19, 2015

Week 1 | Jesus Changes Everything
Galatians 2:11-21

Introduction

When Paul encountered Jesus and began following Him, the trajectory of his life changed. He went from being a hostile opponent of Christianity to one of Christianity's most well-known proponents. The question this invites us to ask is, "What changed?" What grabbed Paul so much that it reoriented his life?

The answer is: Paul was captivated by knowing Jesus. In his letters, we get important insight – in Paul's own words – on how knowing Jesus captured Paul's attention, fueled his worship, and motivated his mission. As we look at some of these truths that captivated Paul in this series, we see why knowing Jesus is still captivating today and can capture our attention, fuel our worship, and motivate mission in our own lives today.

Read Galatians 1:1-5

1. What has Paul already done by the time we get to verse 5 in the book of Galatians?

Read Gal 2:11-21

2. What does Paul's open opposition to Peter communicate about the importance of the gospel?
3. Sharing a meal in Jesus' day was a big sign of acceptance. Why did Peter "draw back" from the Gentiles?
4. What was Peter's hypocrisy?
5. How would you explain what it means to be "justified by faith in Christ" to someone who has never been to church before?
6. Read Romans 3:21-26. Write down everything Paul teaches about justification (being declared righteous by God in Christ) in Romans 3:21-26 and in Galatians 2:14-21.
7. Why is the "doctrine of justification by faith in Christ alone" central to the gospel?
8. What are some ways in which people or churches might be guilty of communicating by the way they act, a gospel that is "Jesus +...?"
9. How would you explain the difference between being moral and being a Christian to someone who thinks "being good" makes them acceptable to God?
10. **Personal reflection** – As we studied Galatians 2:11-21 how might the Holy Spirit be seeking to apply these verses in your life? Are there people in your life you have not been "eating with" because they are not "like you"? What do you think is behind this attitude? How does this passage lead you to be "captivated" by the grace of God in Christ Jesus?