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WARM UP

When was the last time you made a promise, but didn't keep it? What were some of the consequences?

WORD

Read [Galatians 3:21-29](#)

This is a letter to the churches in Galatia about dealing with a false teaching that was beginning to take hold. It falsely taught people to obey the law above having faith in Christ Jesus. So Paul made known to them the journey of the Promise, the law, and Christ.

NOTES

1 The Promise

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ²that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." ³Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴"Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.

[Genesis 17:1-4](#) (ESV)

- From the passage above, who was the covenant between?
 - What was God's promise to Abram?
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2 The Law

The Ten Commandments is the beginning of the Mosaic Law, the law given through Moses specifically for the Israelites. Other parts of the law included the rules and the order in which the worship system was to be carried out, for example, the priesthood, tabernacle, festivals, and offerings. The law was given for the primary purpose of revealing that we need a Saviour and that we cannot abide by the law in our own current state.

- How are you at following the law? (e.g. Do you abide by the road rules at all times?)
 - From Galatians 3:21-29, what is Paul's stance on the law and its position in God's plan for salvation (v.23-25)?
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3 The Reconciliation Plan

Jesus came, died, and rose again so that we could have life, and life more abundantly. This was God's great plan for reconciliation, that we would first be reconciled back to Him through faith in Christ Jesus (our vertical relationship), then reconciled to others (our horizontal relationships).

Under the law, we will always have criteria, rules, and regulations to abide by, but under Christ, we are all one in Him. When we understand this position with our faith in Christ Jesus, we will see that no cultural or status barriers can stop us from sharing the message of reconciliation and hope with every person from every nation.

- Are you crossing a 'cultural bridge' where you are sharing your faith with people from different cultural backgrounds? If so, how are you doing this?
 - What practical ways can you initiate or better a dialogue with people who need reconciliation and hope?
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PRAYER

- Pray for healing and restoration over people that have been hurt by cultural or religious barriers, that they would be healed and renewed through a personal relationship in Christ Jesus.
- Pray for God's leading in your conversations with people of different backgrounds.
- Pray for courage and wisdom during cultural bridging conversations, that a positive dialogue will occur and that we will reflect the love of Christ to all people.