

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: May 28, 2023
Galatians 4:21-5:12 (see also Genesis 16 & 21)

1. What has Paul been addressing in the previous texts and Bible Studies through chapters 3 and 4 of Galatians? _____

2. What do Abraham's two sons represent, according to Paul in verses 4:21-27?
 - a. The flesh and the promise.
 - b. The two covenants.
 - c. Mt. Sinai & the city of Jerusalem.
3. Why does Ishmael represent the flesh, the old covenant, etc.?
 - a. When God promised Abram descendants, it seemed impossible, so he slept with Hagar to make it possible.
 - b. God wanted to do the impossible in His power, but Abram tried to fulfill God's will, which was expressed in the promise, in his own power.
 - c. The old covenant (law) was about trying to accomplish God's will in our own strength instead of trusting in God to fulfill his will in us by his power, which is exactly what Abram had done.
4. How was Isaac different? _____
5. Who, according to 4:28-31, are the children of promise (Isaac)? _____

Who are the children of Hagar (Ishmael)? _____

6. What is the difference between the results?
 - a. Well, he got a son both ways!
 - b. Only one really brought about the will of God, even though both looked very similar.
 - c. Well, the trouble that was brought about by this lack of faith is still experienced today.
7. Are we in danger of the same things? Yes_____ No_____ Describe a time when you have been tempted to seek righteousness through works rather than faith in Jesus Christ. ___

8. Is circumcision wrong now, given what Paul says in chapter 5?
 - a. It seems wrong to me.
 - b. It depends on the reason that you are doing it.
 - c. Only if you believe that your righteousness comes through this observance or any other.
 - d. There are times when temptation is so strong that we need to flee from it and in this case the temptation is toward works righteousness.
 - e. Verse 6 says it doesn't matter either way!
9. What does it look like when faith expresses itself through love? _____
