



**Don't Stay As You Are - there is a goal!**

**For week of Sept 3**

### **Look Back**

- **Group Check in...**if there is anyone new in your group, go around and introduce yourself, where you were born, where you grew up and what you like to do for fun.
- **SMALL GROUP GUARDRAILS:** go through the ten small group guardrails and discuss the reasoning behind them and why they add to a healthy small group dynamic. How can you all make these a part of your group's "culture"? (they can easily be accessed on your phone or tablet at [www.chjoplin.org/smallgroups](http://www.chjoplin.org/smallgroups)).
- Last week, the passage we read was about Zacchaeus and how Jesus engaged him. Who do you see as an example today as someone who engages with people well?

### **Look Up**

The book of the Bible we begin reading today is a letter, written "to the churches in Galatia" (1:2). Galatia was a region in Asia Minor (think modern day Turkey) that encompassed cities such as Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe. Paul visited these cities, making disciples of Jesus and helping them establish churches (Acts 14). Paul was stoned and left for dead while working to establish churches in this region by Jewish leaders who were antagonistic toward the new Jesus movement and following.

Paul writes this letter to confront some rather destructive patterns the Christians in the area had adopted; including turning to a "different gospel" (1:6) than the true one originally taught to them.

### **Read Galatians 1:1-10.**

- What do you learn about God?
- What do you learn about people and yourself?
- What does this teach us about becoming a better disciple of Jesus?

### **Look Forward**

- What "different gospels" do we listen to today, in our culture? How should we respond to people who are a part of believing these? Is it easier to recognize this in ourselves or in one another? Why?
- Paul said there are some who "distort the gospel of Christ" (1:7). Do we do this in our lives or group in small ways or big?
- What ways can we, as a group, assure that our life is oriented toward the truth of Biblical gospel and doesn't get off track?
- Who can we share the basic, good news of the gospel with this week in our day to day lives?

**This week, challenge everyone to read one chapter of Galatians per day - there's only six chapters. Spend a bit of time praying for one another.**