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| **Study Guide - 23 Aug, 2020**  Series: Sonship  Text: Gal 3:23-26 |  |

*This guide will help you facilitate a study of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God’s truth to our lives together. Look at the Big Idea and Takeaway for our CGs sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused. For a deeper dive into the passage, refer to the* [*text notes*](https://docs.google.com/document/d/19ASBvrjXYWt4OHFO5znUI9Jn7_AEWnL7k1vNwD7chU8/edit?usp=sharing) *on the passage.*

**Overview**

Summary of Series  
Through the gospel we have been adopted as God’s dearly loved children who don’t just have access to Him, but whom He loves and welcomes into His presence. Our hope for this series is to explore our faith through the lens of adoption, and for the members of RHC to move beyond a cognitive understanding of the gospel and our faith to a deep relational closeness with God that is expressed in enjoyment of fellowship with God, increasing prayer, and joy in our hearts before him.

Galatians 3:23-26

*23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.*

Our Fallen Condition

We tend to rely on rules to earn salvation, not appreciating the finished work of Christ and what it means to be a son of God.

Big Idea of the Text

Christ has come and ushered in a new phase in the history of redemption, and hence it is only in Him that we can become sons of God.

Takeaway

For us to rest in the finished work of Christ and embrace their identities as sons of God.

**Study Guide Suggested Answers**

1. What does “the law” refer to?

2. Why does Paul use the terms below to describe the law? What do these terms suggest about the role of the law, and the impact that it has on Israel?

1. “Held Captive” (Hint: Refer to 2 Corinthians 11:32 and Philippians 4:7)
2. “Imprisoned” (Hint: Refer to Gal 3:22 and Luke 5:6)
3. “Guardian” (Hint: Notice the prepositions of time in the passage that are used in relation to the law and refer to Gal 4:1-2)

3. How might we relate to the law of God in a way that is similar to the Israelites or the Judaizers in Galatians? In what ways are we still held captive, imprisoned or guarded by the law as Christians? (Application Question)

4. What does “faith” in v23 refer to? (Hint: refer to the first half of v24)

5. In v24, Paul says that we are now “justified by faith.” How does the legal term “justified” emphasise our freedom from the law?

7. We are “sons of God” (v26).

1. Who were other “sons” of God? (Refer to Luke 3:38, Ex 4:22)
2. How did these sons respond to sin and temptation? How are they different from Jesus?
3. What is Paul trying to emphasise when he uses the word “sons” (instead of “children” or “sons and daughters?”

8a. How do we get to be “in Christ Jesus” according to V26?

8b. How does Christ free us from being captive, imprisoned, and guarded by the law?

9. (Application Question) What might it look like for us if we believed that we are sons of God -- What difference does sharing in Jesus’ standing before God as sons of God make when:

1. We worry about what others think of us?
2. We are confronted with our failures and sins?
3. We achieve success?

10. What prevents us from resting in our identities as “sons of God?” (Application Question)