



# GALATIANS 1

## INTRODUCTION

**Scripture:** Galatians 1

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Cards

### **Explain:**

Today, we are starting a new book. We just finished with the Minor Prophets, so we're going to spend some time in the New Testament. Who can tell me what the New Testament is about? (It contains the stories of the life of Jesus and the early church, along with letters to the churches). The book of Galatians that we're going to read was really a letter written by a man named Paul. We'll learn more about him in this lesson. Get out the map. Paul went on a lot of missionary journeys. During those journeys he planted churches and later on, wrote letters to those churches. This letter was to the church in Galatia which is in modern day Turkey. There is some dispute over whether the letter went to north or south Galatia, but many think south. (Show on the map).

### **Background:**

Something really important to understand before we jump into Galatians is a group of people that Paul dealt with throughout his ministry. This group is now known as the Judaizers. The Judaizers essentially followed Paul and, after he moved on to plant other churches, disrupted the churches he had planted. They emphasized that people had to follow the old Jewish law in order to be saved. They needed to be circumcised according to the Jewish law, and they wanted them to take part in Jewish feasts and festivals. Can you imagine cleaning your room, only to have a brother or sister go in after you and make it messy again? This is what Paul faced regularly. His letter to the Galatian church is to correct the false beliefs they have come to because of the Judaizers.

**Read:** Galatians 1:1-10

**Play a Game:**

False Teachers (It is the game Mafia, tweaked to apply).

A teacher shuffles a deck of cards where there will be enough for each child to have one, then hands them out. If the player gets an Ace they become the false teacher, a King is the good teacher, a Queen is a guard. All other number cards are church members. In the game, the false teacher will attempt to deceive a person, while the guard and the good teacher try to save people.

The Narrator (teacher) will invent a town in Galatia where a local church is gathering. Each “night” the church will go to sleep. All will close their eyes and the narrator will tell the false teacher wake up. The false teacher will open their eyes and signal silently to the narrator a church member to deceive. Then, the leader will have the false teacher go back to sleep and then wake up the church guard. The church guard will investigate by silently gesturing to one sleeping church member to ask the narrator if he or she is the false teacher. The leader will shake their head yes or no. Then guard will go back to sleep and the leader will have the good teacher wake up. The good teacher will try to save and disciple the person who was deceived. They will point to a church member for the narrator to see. If they choose correctly, no one will be deceived in the morning because the good teacher will have saved them. If the good teacher chooses any other person than the one the false teacher picked to deceive, the church members will wake up to a person who has been deceived. The deceived person will sit out and watch the rest of the game. If the good teacher saved the deceived person, no one is out.

Once one round has gone through, the players can try to accuse or determine who the false teacher is. In this time, they can debate and make their cases. The good teacher and the guard can choose to make themselves known if they want to. The game goes until either all are deceived, or they find the false teacher.

You can make the game extra fun by inventing stories of how the person was deceived or what they were doing during the night.

**Explain:**

Many of Paul's letters combat false teachings at some point, and in Galatians, he gets right to it. He also feels the need to defend himself as an apostle. You see, Peter, James, and John all had claims to be apostles because they walked with Jesus in his ministry. Paul didn't. He met Jesus in a whole different way. He calls himself an apostle unnaturally born because he didn't follow Jesus during Jesus' time on earth, but met him once he was resurrected while Paul was on the road to Damascus. Before that, he persecuted the church and was there when the first martyr, Steven, was killed. On the road to Damascus, Paul was on his way to put more Christians in prison, but he met Jesus.

**Read:** Acts 9:1-9

**Play a Game:**

Select one player to be it and one to be Annanias. Play a game of tag where whoever gets tagged has to freeze and close their eyes until "Annanias" comes and heals them by tagging them. Similar to freeze tag.

**Read:** Galatians 1:11-23

**Explain:**

Paul knew he was called by God and he didn't let anyone deter him. Is it easy to let things deter you when you know God has asked you to do something? This week, try to be obedient and disregard any distractions that try to keep you from obeying God.

There will also be false teachings you'll come across in your life. It is our responsibility to know God's Word so we can determine what is true and what is false. Take time reading your Bible this week so you can be guarded against false teaching.

**Memorize:** Galatians 1:3

**Close in Prayer**