

Paul's world Life in Galatia

Materials to support the weekly resources on RCL Proper 8 Year C: Galatians 5:1,13-259 See www.rootsforchurches.com/paulsworld2025

Life today

Who tells you what to do at home or at school?

When are you free to decide what to do?

How often do you choose to do exactly what you want to?



Imagine

In Paul's world, some people were slaves and had to work for their master in whatever way he wanted. Some slaves would work in the house, others in the master's business. If your parents were slaves, then you were born a slave and belonged to your master, too. It was bad enough being born a slave, but it was even worse if you became one. This could happen if you owed people money and couldn't pay them back. Being a slave meant that everyone looked down on you. When Paul was teaching people about Jesus, he used the idea of being a slave to say because we are set free by following Jesus, we should choose to become a slave to other people to serve and help them. If we put our trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit will grow inside us and guide us to be gentle, kind and patient, and look after our neighbours.



Did you know?

Imagine you were a craft worker like Paul. If you didn't sell enough of what you made, then you wouldn't be able to pay for your home and food for your family. You would have to sell yourself to a master and become a slave until you could pay off your debt. Eventually, your master might give you your freedom, but you would still have to work closely with him. Instead of being his slave you would be a customer in his business. The master would gain honour and enjoy a high position by having a lot of customers.



Paul's letter to the Galatians

A nugget to explore with children:
Chapter 5, verses 13 and 16

My friends, you were chosen to be free. So don't use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want. Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love. If you are guided by the Spirit, you won't obey your selfish desires.