**Small Group Talk Sheet**

**Galatians – Week 5: Galatians 3:1-5**

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**Intro –** When we consider how we interact with other human beings on this planet, we find ourselves in a lot of situations in which our words commit us to certain courses of action. We say things like, “I’ll call you later”, or “Talk to you soon”, or “I’ll pray for you”, or “I’ll get to that in a bit”. Do we sometimes say things that are just the “polite” thing to say? We say things sometimes without really intending to call that person later on or with no thought to when I will actually take out the trash. What we say and what we do are sometimes worlds apart if we’re being totally honest with ourselves. What does it look like when someone tells us something that sounds like a commitment and there is no follow through later on? Do we really take that person seriously? This happens in faith sometimes, as well. The reality is that our actions determine if our words are really true. This is as true in life as it is in our relationship to Christ

**Big Idea** – There is a balance between faith and works.

**Notes**

***James 2:14-20 (NIV)***

14What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

18But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

1. Works without faith
   1. Self-effort (religion based on achievement)
   2. Low expectation faith; “easy Christianity”
2. Faith without works –
   1. Lip service; “cheap grace” that costs nothing;
   2. Acknowledgement of the existence of God/Jesus with no commitment to follow.

**Small Group Questions: Leader, please read the following questions and give everyone a chance to participate.**

1. Have you ever been in a situation when you told someone what he or she wanted to hear just so that person would either quit talking or just leave you alone? Can you describe a situation like this, either real or hypothetical?
2. Has anyone ever promised you something only to not follow through on it later?
3. How can a person really tell if what another person says is really true?
4. React to the following statement: “Commitments/words are validated by actions”.

**Pray** – Ask the Lord to bring your words and actions closer together in all of your interactions. Pray that our church would not just “talk about it” but “be about it”.