

Small Group Bible Study: Crucified with Christ — Living by Faith

Text: Galatians 2:1–21

Focus Verse: *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* — Galatians 2:20

SESSION GOALS

Main Idea:

In Christ, we die to the old life of self-reliance and live a new life rooted in faith, love, and dependence on Him.

Head Change:

To understand that justification and true life come only through faith in Jesus Christ, not through works of the law.

Heart Change:

To embrace the personal reality of Christ’s love and the truth that His life now shapes and empowers ours.

Life Change:

To live each day from the reality of being united with Christ—trusting, obeying, and reflecting His life in us.

OPEN (10–15 minutes)

Icebreaker:

Share about something in your life that changed you so deeply it felt like you became a new person (e.g., a new relationship, moving somewhere new, a major turning point).

Transition:

Paul says that following Jesus isn’t just adopting a belief—it’s becoming someone new. Let’s explore what it means to be *“crucified with Christ”* and to live by faith in Him.

READ (10 minutes)

Read **Galatians 2:1–21** together aloud, possibly from two different translations.
Ask someone to re-read **Galatians 2:19–21** slowly.

OBSERVE (10 minutes)

Questions:

1. What conflict is Paul addressing in Galatians 2 between faith and works of the law?
 2. How does Paul describe his relationship with the law and with Christ (vv. 19–20)?
 3. What does Paul mean when he says, *“I have been crucified with Christ”*?
 4. How does verse 21 summarize the heart of the gospel message?
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INTERPRET (15–20 minutes)

Dig Deeper Questions:

1. In verse 20, what do you think Paul means by *“I no longer live, but Christ lives in me”*?
2. How does this verse describe the Christian’s identity and motivation?
3. What role does faith play in the “new life” Paul describes?
4. Why is it significant that Paul says, *“the Son of God... loved me and gave himself for me”*? How personal is this statement to you?

(Optional Greek insight: The verb “I have been crucified” is in the perfect tense—meaning it happened once and its effects continue. This speaks to our ongoing union with Christ.)

APPLY (15–20 minutes)

Personal Reflection & Group Sharing:

1. What are some ways we might still try to “earn” our standing with God today, rather than living by faith?
 2. How can understanding that “Christ lives in me” change the way you approach challenges, relationships, or failures?
 3. What does “living by faith in the Son of God” look like in daily life—at work, school, or home?
 4. What might need to “die” in you so that Christ can live more fully through you?
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PRAY (5–10 minutes)

Invite group members to pray short prayers of surrender:

- “Lord, I die to my pride...”
 - “Jesus, live through me today...”
- End with a collective prayer of thanksgiving for the love of Christ who lives in us.
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OPTIONAL FOLLOW-UP CHALLENGE

This Week:

- Each morning, read or recite Galatians 2:20.
- Ask, “*How can Christ live through me today?*”
- Journal one way each day that you saw God’s life in you—through patience, courage, love, or faith.