

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) God wants us to restore and bear with one another. What does this teach us about the heart of God?

2. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) In what ways have you experienced the messiness of community (the church)?

b) With whom are you dealing with your sin and suffering?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Paul speaks of the "law of Christ." What do you think Paul means? How did Christ do the things Paul calls for in these verses – restoring in sin and bearing burdens in suffering.

b) Re-read verses 3-5. How do the "self checks" (not comparing, not boasting, carrying own load) in these verses point our hearts back to the gospel? Think about the power that the gospel gives us for all these things.

APPLICATION

a) Does your group restore one another from sin in gentleness? What makes this so difficult? How might you improve in this area?

b) Burden bearing in suffering needs love, sympathy, and sacrifice. How is your group doing at this kind of burden bearing? How might you improve in this area?

FIGHTER VERSES: Ephesians 3:14-21.

PRAYER

- Praise God for his heart of grace in restoring us to himself.
- Confess ways that you have failed to fulfill the law of Christ.
- Thank Jesus for his restoring and burden bearing love and mercy.
- Ask God to help you to live in the community of Galatians 6:1-5.