

Galatians 2:1-10

Launch:

Ask your group for 3 volunteers to participate in a thought experiment. When you have the volunteers, give them this hypothetical scenario:

You are three people on an African safari who get separated from your group. Here's the catch. All three of you are blind. As you are blindly wandering around the savannah, you come across something that a seeing person would refer to as an elephant. However, you have no idea this is the case. One person touches the elephant's trunk, another touches the elephant's leg, and the third touches the elephant's tail.

This is the scenario. Now have the three participants, from their perspective as blind people, discuss and argue what they ran into on their safari adventure. Remember, they have no idea what an elephant is or that all 3 of these things could be part of the same animal, plant, or thing.

Highlight: Which verse spoke to you this week?

Explain:

In the rather ridiculous scenario just demonstrated by three brave students, no one of them really had any idea how to know what it was they touched. They had no reference for truth. They had only their own limited experience. The experience of touching an elephant's tail is far different than touching its leg. Yet a blind person in this scenario would likely never say, "This is an elephant." In the same way, Paul makes very clear in Galatians 2, that the message of the gospel must be the foundation of everything we do as Christians. We must be faithful to the message of the gospel, never wavering to the right or to the left. Once we know the gospel and are faithful to it, we must be faithful to the mission. The mission of course is spreading the gospel and fulfilling the great commission. Paul's life is a testament to these two things. The message being preached must never change, and the mission to further the kingdom must never stop.

Apply:

1. What is the gospel that Paul preached to the gentiles? This is a simple question, but it is important to be able to articulate. Spend some time on this question helping your class be able to articulate the truth of the gospel in a clear and concise way. This is how we can share it.
2. The Judaizers in Galatians 2 were adding things to the gospel from Jewish traditions. How is the gospel diminished when we add things to it?
3. The book of Galatians says that Peter preached the gospel to the Jews while Paul preached it to the gentiles. It was not two different gospels, but the same gospel in different cultures. How does the gospel contextualize in different cultures we see today?
4. How can you make sure you are faithful to the message? How can you then be faithful to the mission?