

Instructions

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and pick 3-5 questions to discuss, which pertain to your group's unique needs and style.

Series Synopsis

Easter is here and spring has sprung! There are signs of new life all around us. So how do we continue to live into the hope of Christ and the promise of the coming Kingdom now? How do we continue in hope with our changed hearts and changed lives when the world remains largely... unchanged? Join us this spring as we explore how to live in freedom, joy, hope, and peace now through a study of Galatians and a focus on the only thing that really matters... our faith in Christ working through love.

Message Synopsis

We started this series with the Spirit, and now we end it with the Spirit too. For Paul, it is all about the Spirit. The life God intends for us is a life with the Spirit. Paul's conversion and faith come through a revelation by the Holy Spirit. A confession of faith, "Abba, Father!" only happens through the work of the Spirit in our hearts. And now the call comes, to walk by the Spirit so that its fruit may take root in our lives. It's all about that Spirit at work through Christ that leads us to righteousness and goodness. In times of anxiety and change, we are prone to "enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions" (Galatians 5:20). These attitudes are destructive to the mission of the church. We must continue to live by and cling to the Spirit, so that we can be led into our shared future together.

Key Scriptures

Galatians 5:16-25

Questions Related to This Week's Message

1. Share an experience where you clearly felt or experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit. What did it feel like? How did you know it was the Spirit and presence of God?
2. Where do you see evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in your life, both personally and in the church? Where do you see examples of it in your house group, family, and in the faith walks of others you admire or look up to? Take a moment to affirm the work of God in the lives of those around you.
3. What did Paul mean by the desires of the flesh working against the Spirit? What does that have to do with our communal life together? [flesh=self-indulgences, the whole sinful person, referring to selfishness vs. life in the Spirit that is shared, communal, relational).

Video & Related Questions

The following questions provide a more in-depth look at Scripture that does not require watching this video. The video is a good reminder and conversation starter, if you have the time.

Video: “What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?” by GotQuestions.org (3 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHSy1IStFBk>

1. Take a moment to discuss this video freely. What stuck out to you? What bothered you? What questions did this raise for you? Even consider where and why your mind wandered as you watched, as it might reveal something of your heart or something of significance in the message.
2. Take a look at the Galatians 5:19-21, the works of the flesh. What do these works have in common? If you were to summarize these verses in your own words, what would you say?
3. Now look at Galatians 5:22-23. What do these have in common? If you were to summarize these verses in your own words, what would you say?
4. In 5:18, before the works of the flesh, Paul says if we are led by the Spirit, we are not subject to the law. And again in 5:23, he says there is no law against the fruit of the Spirit. Read Romans 7:25-8:4. Thinking of these passages together, what is Paul saying about the law and where it leads us when we follow it in the flesh (according to our own judgment and our own righteousness)? What is the solution? (You may want to check out Jeremiah 31:33-34 and Joel 2:28-29 for clues).
5. How does this passage fit into Galatians as a whole? Why does it follow Paul’s talk of freedom earlier in chapter 5? Why does it precede chapter 6? If there is “1 Thing” Paul is trying to get at in this book, what is it and how does the fruit of the Spirit take us there?
6. So what? How will you apply this word to your life today? What steps do you need to take to yield to the Holy Spirit this week and to allow him to create these fruits in you? Is there any way your group can help?
7. Take some time to pray for one another, inviting the Holy Spirit to fill and shape you, to prune you, fertilize you, and water you (as individuals, as a small group, and as a church), so you will produce even more good fruit in the image of Christ.

Family Discussion Guide

1. There are so many great songs and tools out there to help your kids learn the fruits of the Spirit. Do a quick search for “fruit of the Spirit” on YouTube, and you’ll find a long list. But while we’re quick to learn the songs and to memorize these fruits, how quick are we to learn what they really mean and to allow God to work them out in us? You might start with a song, but take the time to ask your kids what the fruit really means. If they could put it into their own language, what would they say?
2. Ask your kids where they see the fruit of the Spirit in your own life, and then share with them how you see God bringing fruit out of them. This can be a great time of encouragement, and it is also a great time to pray together and ask God to help you in your weaknesses. Ask the Holy Spirit to come and grow his fruit in your lives as a family. Then, be intentional to affirm each other when you see the Spirit at work in the coming week.