

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

This is what life in the Spirit looks like- bearing one another's burdens, holding each other accountable in love, and not thinking too highly of ourselves. Life together in the Spirit enables us to not grow weary of doing good. Which is just another way to describe our faith in Christ expressing itself in love. This is what it is all about, this one thing of expressing the faith in love, which is only empowered and made possible together through life lived in the Spirit.

Key Scriptures

Galatians 6:1-10

Questions Related to This Week's Message

1. What do you think it means to restore a brother or sister in a spirit of gentleness? Have you ever experienced this yourself or seen it done well?
2. How does a community of faith best restore and hold one another accountable?
3. What does Paul mean by transgression here? How do we uphold this and hold one another accountable in love without these "other things" becoming "main things" or rules-based thinking for a community of faith?

Video & Related Questions

Video: "Living Life Together" (23 min – STOP watching at 13:30)

Located in the Renovation Group Bible Studies channel – WARNING: you will need tissues on hand!

<https://www.righnowmedia.org/Content/Series/138575?episode=4>

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. This video, while emotionally difficult, is an incredible picture of what it means to do life together, especially in Christian community. In our passage this week, Paul talks about a wide range of things, from accountability to bearing burdens to humility and honor. He concludes by saying "whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." Take a moment

to share with your group a way that they (or another person or group) have demonstrated this kind of love to you. Reminisce about those times and reflect on how the Gospel was being fulfilled through sharing life together.

3. Shauna challenges us to show this same kind of love to others. She exhorts us to find someone who needs our love today, someone who needs to know they are not alone. This could be a need for accountability, bearing a burden, or showing honor, or it could be something else entirely. If you don't want to share your personal answers, that's okay – just make a plan and act on it. But consider as a group, who is in need of your community right now? Who can your group reach out to, invite in, and be present for, who needs to know they are not alone?

Family Discussion Guide

1. Take a moment to realize who your children's non-biological family is. Who do your children look up to, relate to, hold accountable, rejoice with, cry with, honor, and love? These may or may not be healthy and fruitful relationships, but they all have a huge impact on their lives, if not on your entire family. How can you, while honoring the bonds your children have made, encourage them toward Christian community that can offer them life and courage and hope like Paul describes in Galatians?
2. Talk with your kids this week about the laws of sowing and reaping. If your kids are younger, you might do this while planting a garden together, or at least a few seeds in a pot as a demonstration. Relate the planting and care of those seeds to the way we treat our relationships and share with them Galatians 6:7-8. Encourage your kids to invest wisely in the relationships that will bring them life. Teach them to be a friend first, to sow kindness and compassion, love and accountability. And help them to see where these kinds of seeds are already reaping a harvest in their lives.
3. Ask your children who needs their love this week, and then encourage them and support them in making a plan and walking it out.