

Here are some talking points to start using to get your group talking to each other and to start generating meaningful conversations. Remember, you want others to do most of the talking.

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was most impactful to you and why?

Start Sharing & Talking About the message. NOTE: Pastor may not cover all points in all services.

Setting/Open: Of our three biggest enemies, the world, the flesh and the devil, the flesh is our biggest problem. But when we walk in the Spirit, we won't fulfill desires of the flesh. **Gal 5:16**

1. **Point:** We can't take fleshly resources to produce Christlike character. Our efforts only produce "rotten fruit." **John 3:6**
2. Can we truly change our character by our efforts that result in lasting change? A. No. Only God can, Who works on the inside.
3. What are four "nots" of the fruit of the Spirit? A. It's not manufactured, created, produced or developed by man.
4. At times, how do we view our lives as believers? A. As a factory. What does this cause us to focus on and overemphasize? A. Production, work, perfection, & an assembly-line mentality. If we have this mentality, how might we view God? A. As a "Factory Manager."
5. Rather than a Factory Manager looking for production, what is God in the Bible? A. He is a Gardener looking to create fruit through us. **Point:** Our part is to yield & surrender.
6. Discuss the difference between "Works" & "Fruit." A. Work puts us in a factory with the pressures to constantly produce. Fruit puts us in a garden, a place of beauty and peace. It's here that the Gardener takes care of the vine and branches. **App:** When we emphasize works, we move into the realm of our flesh & self-life, leading to bondage, frustration & sin.
7. What does the emphasis on works create in the worker? A. Tiredness, burn-out and condemnation because of our failure to do enough work. Instead, abide in Jesus. **John 15:4**
8. Does abiding depend on us? A. No. It depends on God Who is working in us. **Phil 2:12-13**
9. What is the difference between works and fruit? A. Works are something we do; Fruit is something that is done. Resist legalism & perfectionism that puts everything on us. **Rom 10:4**
10. V22. What is the first fruit (not fruits) of the Spirit? A. Love. Not the type of love we produce, but the love we surrender to. Only the Spirit produces love. **Review 1Cor 13:4-8**
11. VV 22-23. Discuss the 3 Categories that Fruit falls into: 1) Our life upward toward God – joy & peace; 2) Our life outward toward others – longsuffering, kindness & goodness; 3) Our life inward character – faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
12. V23. *Against such there is no law.* **Point:** If we are walking in the Spirit, we don't need rules or regulations (the Law).
13. V24. The flesh is crucified, not by our efforts; it's something that has already been done. We are new creations. **2Cor 5:17**
14. VV 25-26 We are to walk & live in the Spirit. **John 17:3 Point:** You are a legalist if you are not completing people but competing with them; if we're not providing but provoking. **John 15:1-8**
15. **Close:** It's not what I have done, but what He has done. It's not who I am, but who He is. It's not how hard I try, but what He has already finished.

Start Praying & Start Doing. Talk to your group about (1) creating profiles on the Calvary App so your group can create a group chat on the app. Let Pastor Josh know so he can set your group up for you. (2) Encourage your group to read ahead. (3) Please remember to fill out the LIFEgroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEgroup-Assessment>

LIFEgroups

Talk it over | week 6

discussion | study 14820

The Glorious Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-26

Pastor Ed Taylor