

Local Group Leader Guide

Prayer

Take time each week to pause before jumping into conversation and focus our attention on Jesus. Ask that the Holy Spirit would lead the conversation and speak to us. We long to be a place to encounter His presence, so ask that He would reveal Himself to us and make us aware of Him.

Passage

Galatians 5:13-26

Summary

This week, we learned that real freedom does not come from doing more, trying harder, or getting everything right. It comes from abiding. Galatians 5 draws a sharp contrast between the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit, and the distinction is not just in the outcomes but in the very nature of how they are produced. Works are manufactured by striving. Fruit is grown through connection.

Context

Gentleness: mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit, meekness.

**prah-oo'-tace* (in Greek): from mildness; i.e. (by implication) humility: —meekness

*Meekness is power under control

*It is getting angry at the right time and never at the wrong time

Self-Control: self-control (especially continence) — temperance

**eng-krat'-i-ah* (in Greek): self control (the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, esp. his sensual appetites)

Walk by the Spirit (v 16) vs. Keep in Step with the Spirit (25)

- v 16. Walk is **peripateo** (in Greek): normal word for walking, used there as a picture of the "Walk of life"

- v 25. Walk is **Stoicheo** (in Greek). Means "to be in line with, stand beside a person or a thing, hold to, agree with, follow."** **"If the Spirit is the source of our life, let the Spirit also direct its course"**

Paul says we are to crucify the flesh - not just kill it. It is an active, habitual choice under the Spirit. The word crucify would remind believers:

1. Of Christ's crucifixion
2. Picking up our cross *daily* and following Jesus
3. That crucifixion is painful
4. That dealing with the passions and desires of the flesh must be done decisively

Discussion

Use these questions as a guide for conversation. This time is not about asking these specific questions or even "getting through" them all. Simply facilitate a Jesus-centered conversation and if these questions help do that, then great!

1. Haley talked about 'How are you being?' rather than 'How are you doing?' as a way of checking in on the state of one's abiding with God -- if someone asked you that question right now, how would you honestly answer it, and what would your answer reveal?
2. Galatians 5 warns against submitting again to a yoke of slavery, and the sermon connects this to the idea of 'Jesus plus something' -- what are the things you most commonly add to Jesus as conditions for feeling spiritually acceptable or secure?
3. The sermon described gentleness as power under control. Did you have a different view of gentleness before this weekend?
4. The sermon describes a tension between 'being' and 'doing' in the Christian life -- in what areas of your life do you find yourself trying to earn your way to God through doing rather than resting in who He says you are?
5. In this week's message, Haley drew a distinction between two Greek words for 'walk' in Galatians 5, one being a general walk of life and the other meaning to deliberately stay in step with the Spirit -- what does it practically look like for you to be intentionally in step with the Holy Spirit rather than simply moving through life with Him nearby?

Prayer

This week, please take time to pray specifically for the spaces and people that God has put on your heart. This could be out loud, or even just a time of personal prayer (if people are not willing to share out loud). But collectively come together to bring our individual spaces before the LORD to advocate on their behalf for God to reveal Himself to our people.