

## MAIN POINT

What is key for fulfilling our happiness? Relationships. The amount of joy we experience in our lives is directly connected to the quality of our relationships. In Genesis 2, God identified that it is not good for people to be alone. Even God Himself operates within relationship with the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We have a God who is in community. Yet because we are sinful, there are barriers to relationship. When we are conceited and think we can go it alone or that it's all about us, we create a barrier to friendship. When we provoke others, it is often a statement about feeling superior toward them. Finally, when we envy others, we are stuck in a state of feeling inferior toward others. All of these postures are barriers to relationship. Galatians 6:1 reminds us that the antidote to these various states is a gentle invitation: one that restores sinners (those we feel superior to); one which self-corrects (guards us against conceit); and one which bears the burdens of others (reminds us not to envy). To be in relationship is to be vulnerable, which is why we must first be connected to God and led by the Holy Spirit as we reach out and care for others.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. [Warm Up Question] We are ending our 21 Day Fast. How have you dedicated 2019 to God this year? What are one or two take aways from your fasting experience?
2. Read Galatians 5:25-6:5. What does it mean to "live by the Spirit"? How are we called to care for one another in these verses? What are some of the warnings we have from these verses?
3. Paul warns the Galatians of being conceited, provoking, and envying. In your own words, describe what each of these looks like in the context of relationship. How have you experienced one of these postures?
4. Of the three (conceited, provoking, or envying), which do you struggle most with? Why do you think this is?
5. Share about a time when someone helped you carry a burden in your life? How did this make you feel?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Who is someone God is asking you to help carry a burden in their life right now? What is one issue which is preventing you from doing so?
2. How are you going to pursue relationships and community as a result of this message?