

Small Group Discussion Questions - Spring Semester // Week Ten

Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.

Optional Ice Breaker(s)

- a) Do you enjoy going hiking during the summer? If so, where are a few of your favourite hiking trails in Canada? If not, what are a few of your favourite outdoor summer activities?
- b) Where is your favourite ice cream shop in Winnipeg? When you go there, what is your favourite thing on the menu to order?

Passage and Discussion

Read Galatians 5:16-21

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage? What is a theme, verse, or word that you find encouraging? What do you find challenging in this passage?
- b) What did you think about the story ("Feathers of the Skylark") that Steve shared at the beginning of his sermon on Sunday? Have you heard this story before? What does this story teach us about 'walking by the Spirit'?
- c) In verse 16, Paul reminds us to "walk by the Spirit". What does this passage mean to you - what do you think it means to "walk by the Spirit"? What are a few practical ways that we can "walk by the Spirit" in our everyday lives?
- d) On Sunday, Steve reminded us that "walking by the Spirit" means that, though the Holy Spirit guides us, we have a role in allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us. Why do we need to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us? What are a few ways that we can "turn up the gas on the pilot light" of the Holy Spirit in our own lives?
- e) What are a few examples of ways that we ignore the Holy Spirit's leading in our everyday lives? If you feel comfortable sharing, have you been through a season of life where you ignored how God was speaking to you?
- f) In verse 17, Paul describes a constant conflict within the Christian. How have you experienced this conflict as you have grown in your faith? If you feel comfortable sharing, what are a few areas in your life where you feel the conflict between the 'flesh' and the Spirit?
- g) On Sunday, Steve's second question was: what does it mean to "gratify the desires of the flesh"? How would you answer this question? In contrast to "walking by the Spirit", what do you think it means to "gratify the desires of the flesh"?

- h) In light of verse 17, how does Paul's teaching in this passage contradict the common view today that we should simply do whatever feels good? According to Paul, why is it important that we have self-control over 'the desires of the flesh'?
- i) In verse 19-21, Paul gives a few examples of "the acts of the flesh". Why do you think it's important for us to understand that this list represents a problem with our hearts, not simply our actions? Why is it necessary for us to invite the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, not just to modify our behaviours?
- j) Why do we need the Holy Spirit to help us live a life of self-control? What do you think happens when we try to follow Scripture without the Holy Spirit's help? Have you ever tried to live this way in your own life?
- k) **Read Romans 8:5-6.** According to this passage, what is the result of living a life according to the Spirit, instead of a life according to the flesh? Share a few ways that you have experienced "life and peace" through walking with the Holy Spirit in your own life.
- l) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)

- a) This week, pray that God would help you to "walk by the Spirit" in your everyday life. Ask Him if there are any areas in your life where you are not walking with Him, and ask Him to give you the strength to walk by the Holy Spirit in obedience and self-control.
- b) This week, consider who you can invite to help keep you accountable to "walking by the Spirit". Ask a couple trusted friends to continually encourage you to allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in your everyday life.

Optional Ideas for Prayer Time

- a) In this season, it is important for us to be intentionally praying for each other. This also means that we must each choose to be honest and vulnerable with our prayer requests. Take time to 'check-in' about how each person is doing, and pray for them.
- b) As a group, continue to pray for our church community as we go into the summer together. Pray that God would guide our church leadership as they plan a new ministry year for the fall.