

**Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series:
Breaking Fake – November 13, 2022**



*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The Bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22)." **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

DISCUSSION STARTER

Ask your group, "If you could change one personality trait in yourself, what would you change?" "Why?"

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Galatians 5:16-18. Say, "In this passage Paul repeatedly contrasts the Spirit and the flesh." Ask, "What (or who) is the Spirit? What is the flesh? Say, "there is a constant battle going on in the life of a Christ-follower between the desires of the flesh and the desires of the Spirit." Ask, "What is one real way that you see the battle of the flesh and the Spirit in your life?"

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Galatians 5:19-21. Say, "If you belong to God, He has freed you from the power of the deeds or desires of the flesh. The chains are off. This is not to say that you will never struggle with these or never sin. Your attitude toward them will change. You will begin to hate sin. And if you belong to Christ, you will experience victory more and more." Say, "Look at the "works of the flesh" that Paul mentions in verses 19-21." Ask, "If you're honest, which ones do you most struggle with? How does the gospel free you from "gratifying" these desires?" Say, "What strong warning does Paul give in verse 21?" Ask, "Does this warning surprise you? Why or why not?" Say, "If the Spirit is convicting you of any works of the flesh that are creeping into your life, repent of them, and remember the goodness of the gospel. Keep reminding yourself of the gospel day by day. This will help you walk in step with the Spirit."

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Galatians 5:22-26. Ask, "what contrast does the "but" in verse 22 introduce?" Ask, "How can we be more fruitful in these areas?" Ask, "What does Paul mean that "against such there is no law?" Ask, "When you read the list of the fruit of the Spirit in vs 22-23, is there one in which you have seen God growing you lately? Share a bit about your growth and praise God for it!" Ask, "What does verse 24 mean? How do we crucify the flesh with its passions?" Ask, "In what sense do love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control grow in a person much the way fruit grows on a tree?" Ask, "How can a person cultivate the character qualities of the Holy Spirit in his or her life?"

DOING THE WORD

Look back over Paul's list of the deeds of the flesh (vs. 19-22). Say, "Consider which work of the flesh you still struggle with. This coming week take time to confess it to God. Then write a plan for how you will avoid that sin the next time you are tempted. If you don't have a plan, if you haven't prepared ahead, you will lose and you will fall again." Say, "the gospel frees us from enslavement to our flesh and frees us to life in the Spirit." Close by praying for each other to walk daily in the Spirit. Pray that God would grow each of us individually, and CF collectively, to be a church that is growing in the fruit of the Spirit. Pray for CF to be a church that learns to pursue holiness and crucify the flesh.