

[Editor's note from Andy Tuck: So, we're at the end of our Galatians series! I hope you've enjoyed this series as much as I have. Hasn't it been wonderful to spend this term in this letter? Our Life Group Guides will continue in January after the Christmas break. We'll be working our way through John's Gospel. May you have a very happy Christmas and New Year. See you in 2022!]

Dear Life Group Leaders,

There are a number of issues that are raised in this final passage and you are invited to perhaps be selective about what you raise in the discussion. But it would be very helpful to include what lessons have been learned from the whole book.

God bless,

Roger (This week's Life Group Guide is brought to you by Roger Newberry, a Life Group Leader in our Wimbledon Venue)

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

Galatians 6:6-18

This Week's BIG IDEA: Applying living by the Spirit, and reflecting on Galatians.

Please read Galatians 6:6-18

A) Helping Leaders and Others

1. v6, what are some of the good things that we can share with our leaders who teach God's word?
[Leaders note: Although it strongly points towards giving money (1 Cor 9:9), consider bringing out ideas of encouragement (look at how Jonathan's right-hand man helped him in 1 Sam 14v7).]
2. v7, how does this teaching on sowing and reaping relate to us helping our leaders?
3. v8, what does "sowing to the flesh" look like? Where does it begin?
[Leaders note: thought -> action -> habit -> life style.]
4. v8, what does sowing to the Spirit look like? What is Paul talking about when he says that we "will reap eternal life"? How does this relate to Gal 5:16?
[Leaders note: God gives us the gift of eternal life when we turn from a sinful life and trust Him to save us. And He wants us to co-operate with Holy Spirit to grow that new life. See also Eph 2:8-9.]
5. How do v9-10 relate to sowing to the Spirit?
[Leaders note: Here Paul gives some definition to walking in the Spirit. God has called us to use our lives to do things that glorify Him.]
6. Is there anything that you want to change based on what God's Word says?

B) What Motivates Us?

7. v12-13, what motivates someone who insists that we have to earn everything & follow certain rules? What are the tell-tale signs in their behaviour?
[Leaders note: Jesus teaches about this in Matt 6:1-2, 5-6, 16-18]
8. v14-15, what motivates someone who knows that God accepts us solely because we are trusting in Jesus' amazing sacrifice? What are the tell-tale signs in their behaviour?
[Leaders note: e.g. what am I thinking about when I meet others? Is it, "How can I bless them, take an interest in them, meet their needs?" or something selfish?]
9. v14, what does it mean to boast only about the cross of Jesus? How does this impact what we say, think and act?
[Leaders note: Luke 9:23, giving our lives daily to Christ is an essential part of living in the Spirit.]

C) How has looking at Galatians affected your life?

- Beliefs, is there anything to change about what you believe about God?
- Values, is there something that the Lord has impressed on you to make a bigger part of your life?
- Thoughts, is there anything to change about how you think about God, others, yourself?
- Actions, is there something that He wants you to do?
- Reactions, when you are under pressure, has He challenged you to change how you respond?
- Habits, is there something that the Lord is impressing on you to develop as a part of your life?