



TALK IT OVER **GROUP GUIDE** **20170611**

WELCOME **LOVE PEOPLE EXTRAVAGANTLY**

You can do so much to make the environment for group amazing this week; clean the house, set out the chairs, snacks and coffee ready to brew, the latest worship music plugged in. You can put all this effort in, all the bells and whistles, and still miss it. We need the bells, but we also need the fruit, right? Our encouragement is to continue to use your gifts to serve your group. Use the spiritual gifts promised to us by the Holy Spirit to minister to your people. Use the gift of hospitality as well, by creating an amazing environment for your members to fellowship in – but while not neglecting to nourish them with the fruit of the Spirit growing in your life of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

WORSHIP **LOVE GOD EXTRAVAGANTLY**

Set a platform of ministry through worship which invites the Holy Spirit to come. It's a simple but significantly powerful prayer "Come Holy Spirit".

WORD **IMPART VICTORIOUS LIFESTYLE**

Fruit, Gift, Fruit, Gift...

The book of Exodus describes Aaron's robe in detail and paints for us a picture for ministry that expresses both the power and heart of God. The instruction God gave was to make pomegranates out of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and attach them to the hem of the robe, with gold bells between them. The gold bells and pomegranates were to alternate all around the hem. Aaron would wear this robe whenever he ministered before the Lord, and the bells would tinkle as he went in and out of the Lord's presence in the Holy Place.

Hebrews 10:19-20 reminds us that we now can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. The picture of the pomegranates and the bells paints a creative illustration for us of the type of ministry we should have as we live from behind the curtain, in this new life of privilege, as we partner with the Holy Spirit. It's a picture of 'fruit, gift, fruit, gift...' We, as ministers of the Gospel, should have fruit growing and gifts flowing from our lives. Not just any fruit, not just any gifts, but the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The potential pitfall, however, is that we can show God's power through spiritual gifts, but not His heart through the fruit of the Spirit, or vice versa, having a form godliness but denying its power. 'No good', the writer to the Corinthians says, if I speak in tongues, but have not love, for then I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing - **1 Corinthians 13:1-2**. The spiritual gifts need to accompany the fruit of God's love in our lives.

All the Bells and Whistles

"Now concerning **spiritual** gifts". Group life is the best place to exercise spiritual gifts. With the fruit of the Spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control being evident in your group it will create a safe environment for everyone to step out of their comfort zones and minister to each other. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and discuss** some of your groups own personal perspectives and definitions for these spiritual gifts. Share stories about your experiences of these spiritual gifts being active in your life. Then read the definitions below and use these to reinforce the conversation:

1. **What is a word of knowledge?** "To know something specific without having learned it by natural means".
2. **What is a word of wisdom?** "A divine answer or solution for a particular event".
3. **What does discerning of spirits mean?** "To be made aware of the presence of a demonic spirit".
4. **What is new testament prophecy?** "The Holy Spirit inspired declaration of God's will and purpose in a situation".
5. **What is the spiritual gift of faith?** "A supernatural impartation of belief and confidence for a specific situation".
6. **What about healings?** "Supernatural endowments of divine health".
7. **What does the working of miracles mean?** "A divine intervention that alters our natural circumstances".

All the Tasty Treats

The spiritual gifts of God flowing from us, expressed in the context of the fruit of the Spirit growing on us, will leave a sweet taste of the fullness of the heart of God. God's divine intervention expressed through us with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control to other.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-2 and discuss

God is all powerful and wants to show his power through us and in us – but God is love and wants to express His very nature in us and through us. How can we as individuals, as a group, as a church work to better express this tension of the glorious power of God being manifest with the intimate Father heart of God being expressed. Which of these; fruit or gifts, does your personality lean towards? How can we grow more in bearing the fruit of the Spirit and exercising the spiritual gifts?

WORKS

BE A RESOURCE + TOUCH THE WORLD

Let's pray for God to work in us and through us by His Spirit, to show His power and express His love, as we reach out to other. Come Holy Spirit, come!