



Fruit of the Spirit Bible Studies

2021

Study 3: The Fruit of the Spirit- Love & Joy

Talk About

Share about someone in your life who best expresses the fruit of love.
What makes them different to other people in your life?

Scripture

Paul was concerned that some in the Corinthian church had become self-centred and self-absorbed to the point that they were arrogant about their spiritual gifts and forming in-groups. In 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8 Paul explains that the way of love is so critical and describes what this love looks like.

Observation

LOVE- Read 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8

1. At the end of Chapter 12, Paul says: "I will show you a still more excellent way". What do you think Paul means by this?
2. In 13:1-3, Paul describes three different scenarios, and how meaningless any of these things are without love. How would you describe each scenario, and what is his conclusion if love is absent?
3. Paul begins to describe what love is and what love is not and what love does (v4-7).
 - a. Highlight the words that describe what this **love looks like**. Which of these stands out to you?
 - b. Highlight the words that describe what love **does not do**. Do any of these grab your attention?
 - c. What do you think it means that love: bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things?
4. How does this description of love align with Jesus life and example?
Do any particular gospel stories come to mind for you?
5. What is the significant difference between love and spiritual gifts (v8)?

Talk About

Share about a time in your life where you experienced great joy. What made that so joyful for you?

Observation

JOY- Read James 1:2-8

6. According to James, what situations should we consider as an opportunity for joy, and why (v2-3)?



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7. What is the end result of perseverance working in us, and what do you think it means to let it “finish its work” in us (v4)?

8. What do you think is the connection between wisdom, perseverance and joy and how do we receive it (v5-8)?

Apply

From the passage above, how do you desire biblical love to grow in your life, and what is one step you can take to cooperate with God to grow it in your life?

Similarly, how does the encouragement from James inspire you to grow biblical joy in your life, and how might you work with God to see a harvest of joy?

Prayer

Pray for one another with your life group/discipleship group for God's love and joy to overflow our lives and our congregation.



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Study 4: The Fruit of the Spirit- Peace & Patience

Talk about

Describe a person in your life who most displays the peace of God. What makes them stand out?
How would you describe your experience of peace in your life right now?

Introduction

Writing from prison to the Philippian church, Paul continually points to Jesus as our source of joy and our model for life and godliness. In chapter 4, Paul reveals powerful truths about the peace of God and how to experience it in our lives individually and in community. May His peace rest on you!

Scripture: Read Phil 4:4-9

Observation

1. Paul twice encourages the Philippians to rejoice “in the Lord” at all times (v4). He quickly follows this up with the encouragement to “Let your gentleness be evident to all...” (v5). Gentleness is also translated as ‘graciousness’ or ‘reasonableness’. What do you think is the connection between “rejoicing”, “gentleness” and “peace”?
2. There are times when we might become anxious, but instead of feeding that anxiety, Paul encourages us with some very practical steps towards peace. Describe each of those steps in detail (v6). Why do you think every step is important?
3. According to verse 7, the result of our prayers is that we encounter the peace of God. How does Paul describe this peace and what does this peace do to us?
4. What we meditate on can significantly impact our peace, which is why Paul encourages the Philippians to meditate on certain kinds of things. What things come to mind that match these descriptions (v8)? What things come to mind that are the opposite?
5. As we imitate Paul in these ways, what promise can we eagerly anticipate (v9)?

Talk About

Share a time in your life that has required the most patience. What helped you through this?

Observation

PATIENCE- Read James 5:7-11

6. James encourages his readers to be patient in the face of the suffering that they are enduring. He encourages them to be patient like a farmer. What aspects of the farmer’s example are we to learn from, and what should be our focus and hope as we wait (v7-8)?



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7. Sometimes others can test our patience especially when we are under pressure and pain. What instruction does James give to us about those situations and what should be our motivation (v9)?
8. The prophets are the next example for us to follow in being patient. What do we learn from their example? What hope can we have in following them (v10-11. See Mt 5:11-12 & 1 Pet 3:14; 4:14)?
9. Job is the third example we have of perseverance. What quality are we to imitate in Job and what qualities of God can give assurance to us in our trials and troubles (11)?

Apply

Personally, why do you feel you need God's peace in your life right now? Based on the above passage, what step might you take together with God to grow the fruit of peace in you?

What impact will more patience have in your life and to those around you? How are you encouraged by James' teaching to make a commitment with God to grow patience in your life?

Prayer:

Invite the Holy Spirit to fill the gathering of your life group/discipleship group. Pray with one another for specific situations that need the peace and patience of God to break through. Pray that this fruit might grow in our lives.



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Study 5: The Fruit of the Spirit- Kindness & Goodness

Talk about

How would you define kindness? Share a story of when you were the recipient of it.

Introduction

The good news was transforming the island of Crete and God's strategy for this was through the transformed lives of His people. Paul wrote this letter to describe how the gospel transforms our relationships, revealing the transformed Christian citizen (Ch 3). Here we will learn about kindness!

Scripture: Read Titus 3:1-11

Observation

1. Paul describes some qualities of how the transformed believer lives, and what they avoid (v1-2). Highlight each quality and discuss which behaviours grab your attention.
2. What stands out to you in the way the qualities (v1-2) are contrasted with our previous way of life (v3)? Take a moment to reflect on/describe your way of life before encountering Jesus.
3. Paul describes the amazing source of our transformation (v4-7). This begins with the revealing/appearing of God's kindness and love. How did God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit express that kindness and love to us?
4. How is this wonderful work of God in us meant to impact our daily lives in what we should do (v8) and what we should avoid (v9-11)?
5. In summary, how then should the kindness of God enable and empower our kindness to others?

Talk About

"The ideals which have always shone before me and filled me with the joy of living are goodness, beauty, and truth."- Albert Einstein. What impact has the goodness of others had on your life?

Observation

GOODNESS- Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

6. Having seen their faith and love grow, Paul prays for the Thessalonians even more. What three things does he specifically pray for in verse 11?
7. The word for goodness (Agathosune) means "the active quality that constantly seeks what is right and beneficial for others". What part do we and God both play in growing goodness in our lives?



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8. What is Paul's motivation for praying that God helps our goodness become a reality (v10, v12)? How does this inspire and encourage you to grow in goodness?

9. Based on the above, what is absolutely essential in growing goodness in our lives?

Apply

Who most needs to encounter the kindness and goodness of God through your life right now?

From the passages today, what step will you take together with God so that kindness and goodness might flourish even more in your life?

Prayer:

Invite the Spirit to fill the gathering of your life group/discipleship group. Pray for people who need the kindness and goodness of God. Pray for each other that this fruit might grow in us.