



Summer 2021 LifeGroup Guide

The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

The questions in this study guide are taken from *The Fruit of the Spirit: Living the Supernatural Life* in the InterActions small group series and the *Fruit of the Spirit* LifeGuide Bible Study.

Week 1 – June 6-12

Begin this week's session by reading Galatians 5:13-26.

Love

1. How would you have defined love at *one* of the following times in your life: as a child, as a teenager, as a young adult?
2. Read Philippians 2:1-11. What does this passage teach us about what love looks like? What has Jesus done to model perfect love for us?
3. Describe a recurring situation in your life where putting others first is difficult. What is one thing you can do to begin to change in this area of your life?
4. Recognizing that love is not based on feelings, what are some practical ways you can show the fruit of love to persons in your life who are difficult to love?

Joy

5. Think of your wildest dream, the one thing in life you would rather see happen than anything else. Describe how you would feel if your dream were to come true.
6. Read John 15:9-11. Jesus talks about our joy being "complete." How was your joy *incomplete* before Jesus entered your life?
7. What is unique about the joy Jesus brings? What has God done to bring you joy over the past year?
8. Read Philippians 4:4-7. How is joy ("rejoicing") connected to the other fruit of the Spirit that Paul names in this passage?

Week 2 — June 13-19

Begin this week's session by reading Galatians 5:13-26.

Peace

1. Imagine an anxiety scale numbered 1-10 (1 = very peaceful; 10 = very anxious). How would you rate your life on this scale? Why would you rate your life this way?
2. What does peace look like when it's fleshed out? Choose *one* area below and describe what it would look like to have peace there: a family, a neighborhood, a church, a nation.
3. Read John 14:25-27. How does God's peace differ from the peace we find in this world? How have you experienced the peace that comes from a vital relationship with Christ?
4. With whom are you presently not at peace? What is it going to take to have peace with that person? How can we work together as a group to support each other in our peacemaking efforts?

Patience

The word translated "patience" in this passage literally means "long-suffering." You may have seen it translated this way in older translations like the King James version. The NIV translates it as "forbearance". So in this passage, we aren't talking so much about patiently waiting for something to happen as we are about being "slow to anger and abounding in love" (Psalm 103:8) and "bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2).

5. What is one of your pet peeves that pushes your impatience button? Why do you think you react to it this way?
6. Read Psalm 103:8-12. What do you learn about the character of God in this psalm? When was a time you have experienced this kind of divine patience in your life?
7. Tell a story of how you were hurt by someone's impatience. How could patience in that situation have spared you from pain and hurt?
8. What is one situation in your life where you are struggling with impatience? How can your group members pray for you and support you as you seek to yield to the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit by being patient in this situation?

Week 3 — June 20-26

Begin this week's session by reading Galatians 5:13-26.

Kindness

This Greek word is only used in Paul's letters the New Testament. Paul uses it 5 times in Romans and once in a few other letters. He pairs it with "forbearance" and "patience" to describe God's relenting from punishment and offering of grace and mercy (Rom. 2:4, 3:12, 11:22). So rather than thinking of kindness simply as "being a nice person", we should see it as embodying the gracious and merciful qualities God demonstrates to us.

1. Think of people who have been especially kind to you. In what ways have you benefited from their kindness?
2. Read 2 Samuel 9. What characteristics of David stand out?
3. Put yourself in David's position. What reasons do you think David might have had for not being kind to Mephibosheth?
4. If David's kindness was not due to personal affection, what was it based on? How might this basis for kindness affect the ways you can show kindness to others?

Goodness/Generosity

This word may be translated "goodness" or "generosity". This implies not just a general quality of "being a good person", but goodness as self-giving. One commentator describes it as "not a mere passive quality, but the preference of right to wrong, the firm and persistent resistance of all moral evil, and the choosing and following of all moral good." (Easton's Bible Dictionary)

5. What situations has God placed you in that have softened your heart to the needs of others?
6. Read Psalm 107. The psalmist gives four illustrations of God's goodness in verses 4-9, 10-16, 17-22, and 23-32. What do each of these illustrations have in common?
7. Notice that in each situation, the people call out to God for help. Is this usually your first reaction when you find yourself in distress? If not, what is?
8. How does seeing God answer the people's cry for help in this passage make the fruit of goodness more real to you? In what ways can we imitate the goodness of God displayed in this psalm?

Week 4 — June 27-July 3

Begin this week's session by reading Galatians 5:13-26.

Faithfulness

1. Describe in detail *one* of the following people who has modeled faithfulness to you: a family member, a teacher, a pastor or church leader, a friend. What were some of the characteristics that marked this person's life?
2. Read Proverbs 20:6-7 and Revelation 2:8-11. Both of these passages call followers of Christ to be faithful. Take a moment for personal reflection and write down four things that you believe are signs of a faithful follower of Christ.
3. In what relationship or situation do you need to commit yourself to live with a deeper level of faithfulness? What practical things need to happen for you to develop faithfulness in this situation or relationship?

Gentleness

4. We all have different temperaments and personalities. Some of us are naturally upbeat, some are easily angered, others tend toward depression, still others are laid back. How does your temperament affect how you experience gentleness?
5. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12. According to Paul, what are some *wrong* ways to share Christ with others (verses 3-6)?
6. In what ways can we share "not only the gospel of God but our lives as well" with those around us? What might this mean in terms of time, energy, and vulnerability?

Self-Control

7. Read 1 Samuel 26. Put yourself in David's position. How might you feel toward someone (like Saul) who was trying in every possible way to kill you?
8. Abishai tells David to seize this golden opportunity to kill Saul (verses 6-8). Why would this be a tempting suggestion? Why does David resist the temptation to take matters into his own hands (verses 9-11)?
9. When we are tempted to sin, how can our attitude toward God's will affect the outcome? In what ways can our commitment to maintaining self-control so that we can do God's will affect Christians and non-Christians as they observe us?