

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 6-4-2023

For You as the Teacher/Host

Remember to begin each Small Group session with a word of prayer. Please keep in mind that the purpose of this curriculum guide is to cultivate a deeper relationship with the Lord and each other through conversation that intentionally engages the weekly message.

Quick Review Discuss the message briefly. Did anything challenge or confuse you?

Opener Question or Activity: What type of fruit was your favorite growing up? What experience of fruit trees/plants did you have and how did you see them cared for?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Galatians 5:16-26

Digging Deeper: *(Teachers/leaders, feel the freedom to not ask every question.)*

Read Galatians 5:16-26 together.

1. Look back over your Christian life. How have you heard the Holy Spirit and knew it was Him? Were you ever confused about if you could hear Him?
2. Vs. 16 in today's reading speaks about walking by the Spirit. What's the definition of "walking" and how would you practically "walk" in the Spirit today? Use other translations as necessary.
3. From the text, what are the things that are "contrary" in our daily lives, if we are to live by the Spirit? What examples of Christians who stopped battling, in other words they gave into the flesh, have you witnessed and what did it produce in their lives in the long run?
4. Paul writes about the fruit of the Spirit in vs. 22. Give examples of how you have seen this fruit growth over the past 1-10 yrs. How does this fruit manifest in your life and what do you need to work on?
5. Vs. 25 reiterates that we are to stay "in step with" the Holy Spirit. How is this similar or different than vs. 16 and "walking" in the Spirit?
6. Read Acts 8:29(26-40 as time allows). How do you think the Spirit "told Philip" what to do and how can you be sure to grow to this type of relationship with the Holy Spirit in the coming year?

Apply it today: Looking back over this week's teaching, what is most important for you to remember and why? How will you grow in the area you have identified?