

PURPOSE LIVED

THE POINT

We live out our purpose as we are led and filled with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-26 (CSB)

¹⁶ I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:16-26 (KJV)

¹⁶ This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. ¹⁸ But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

TEACHING PLAN

GET INTO THE STUDY

OPENING QUESTION: Have you ever planted a garden? How much work did it take on your part to help things grow? What grew in your garden without any help at all?

- Chances are pretty good that it took a lot of work to make things grow. You had to cultivate the dirt, plant the plants, fertilize the plants, and water the plants.
- If you didn't tend to your garden frequently you would find there were weeds that would eventually take over your garden and choke out your plants.
- Likewise, if we are to live out our life as a believer in Christ, we must allow the Holy Spirit to work in us to help us grow.
- In this session we will discover the benefits of walking in the Spirit.

OPTIONAL IDEA: See page 24 for a creative way to introduce the session.

STUDY THE BIBLE

GALATIANS 5:16-18

Walking by the Spirit keeps us from fulfilling sinful desires.

The Spirit of God desires for us to not walk according to the flesh.

- Using information from "The Setting" provide an overview of Galatians chapter 5.
- Using information from the paragraphs that begin "The phrase" through "Walk (peripateo)," compare and contrast the words "walk" and "sanctification."
- Point out that if we walk in the Spirit, allowing Him to be an active part in our lives, then we will make progress in our daily walk with Christ.
- Read Galatians 5:17 aloud.
- Explain to the group the conflict that occurs between our sinful nature and the desires of the Spirit.

- Ask: What does it mean in verse 18 that we are not under the law when we are led by the Spirit?
- Use information from the paragraph that begins "But if" to further answer the question.
- Emphasize that the Spirit-led lifestyle enables a person to reject the desires of the flesh—one's carnal nature that leads to sin.

GALATIANS 5:19-21

Walking in the flesh leads to sinful behavior.

Our desires and sins are obvious when we do not walk in the Spirit.

- Using information from the paragraph that begins "In verses 19-21," create a list of the fifteen works of the flesh that Paul points out on a large sheet of paper.
- Spend some time discussing each one, providing a working definition for each one. Point out that this list is not an exhaustive list of sinful behavior.
- Ask: Are there other areas that we could add to the list? If so, what are they?
- What does Paul mean in verse 21 when he says "they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God/those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God"?
- Use the information from the paragraph that begins "Nothing in this list" to help clarify what Paul meant in verse 21.
- Point out that no one who lives by the standards of the world is fit for the kingdom of God.

GALATIANS 5:22-26

Walking by the Spirit produces Christlike character.

Christ can be seen in us when we walk in the Spirit.

notes

- Distribute **Item 3: The Fruit of the Spirit** handout. Review the Bible verses that support the need for the fruit of the Spirit to be on full display in our lives.
- Ask: What characteristics would you see in a person that was walking by the Spirit?
- Read Galatians 5:22-23 and write out each of the fruits on a large sheet of paper. Use the information from the paragraph that begins “Love is” to help define each of the different fruit of the Spirit.
- Point out that all these qualities or fruit are in the one who is walking by the Spirit. We cannot pick and choose which ones we want.
- Using information from the paragraph that begins “Therefore if,” point out the difference between the word “walk” that was used in verse 16 and the idea in verse 25 that tells us to “walk in/keep in step with” the Spirit.
- Ask: What fruit are you lacking in your life? Are there sinful desires in your life that need to be “crucified” and replaced with the fruit of the Spirit?
- Discuss: Which fruit of the Spirit is growing well in your garden? What fruit needs more attention to help it grow? Are there any weeds that need to be pulled out?
- Say: If we live by the Spirit, we think and act differently because we have been made different.

DIG DEEPER: Review and share the teaching idea on the next page to aid in your discussion.

LIVE IT OUT

What are some specific things in your life that need to change to allow you to walk more in the Spirit than in the flesh?

- When we walk in the Spirit of God, He keeps us from sinning.
- When we walk in the flesh, we will sin.
- When we walk with God, people around you will see Christlike character in your life.



Pack Item 3

OPTIONAL IDEA

Prior to your group time, gather the following items to be able to provide one of each to everyone in the group: a variety of vegetable and flower seeds, potting soil, and small starter pots. You may want to have extras on hand for any guests that may come. Empty the seeds out of their original containers into one bag combining all the seeds. Print out Galatians 5:22-23 on slips of paper.

As you conclude this session, distribute each of the items. Say: Today we started our session asking you whether or not you had ever planted a garden. You have been given seeds, soil, and a pot just now to help you start a garden. You have been given a seed, but you won't know what that seed will produce unless you spend the time helping it grow.

As you nurture your planted seed, let it be a reminder to you each day that your walk with Christ also needs nurturing and tending to in order to help it to continue to grow as well. Encourage members to attach their slips of paper with Galatians 5:22-23 on it as a

reminder of what fruit can be produced when they properly tend to their lives by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead and guide them each day.

Consider asking the group to memorize Galatians 5:22-23 over the course of this week. Let them know you will be asking them next week to quote the verse.

Close in a season of prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide each person.



DIG DEEPER

Paul is warning the readers against walking in the flesh. Repeatedly he contrasts the flesh with the spirit. “Flesh” is a confusing word in Greek. It is translated from the Greek *sarx*. Paul is not saying that your body is bad and your soul is good. We know that because of lot of the wicked things of the flesh that the apostle mentions are things of the heart and not necessarily of the body. To further confuse the issue, Paul tells us to glorify God with our bodies. What does he mean?

James also wrote about denying lusts of the flesh. The Greek word *sarx* was used by New Testament writers in three ways, one literal and two metaphorical. In the literal usage, it refers to our bodies. Metaphorically, it can refer to all that we were in Adam before our regeneration, or it can refer to our human nature that is sinful.

Both Paul and James were speaking of our sinful human nature. *Sarx* is the un-renewed part of us that still desires sin. The flesh urges us to indulge ourselves and give in to temptations. The flesh pushes us to glorify ourselves rather than glorify God. The flesh encourages us to assert ourselves rather than submit to God and to serve ourselves rather than serving others.

The apostle Paul tells the Christians at Galatia that in order to overcome the desires of the flesh, one has to continually walk in the spirit. You can't genuinely experience the gospel without becoming a person overflowing with the fruit of the Spirit.