



SESSION 5 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GOSPEL CHARACTER – WHO IS PRODUCING FRUIT?

GET STARTED

- Have you ever planted and grown something from seed? If so, how did the process go? What did you learn along the way?
- What is your favorite form of competition (sport, TV show, game, debate, etc.)? What about it makes it so compelling for you?

TAKE IT IN

- Watch Session 5: Gospel Character at mynorthside.com/galatians. **What encouraged or challenged you from the video and/or daily study guide this week?**

TALK IT OVER

Read Galatians 5:1-12

- Verse 1 is a key verse to the entire letter to the Galatians. **How do you define freedom? When in your life have you felt the most free?**
- The Gospel set the Galatians free from sin, but, like all of us, they were struggling with the truth that God accepted them. **What is the freedom that is found in the grace of God? How is it similar to or different from other types of freedom?**
- Paul expands the idea of freedom and instructs us to use our freedom to serve others (vv.6,13-14). **What would motivate Paul to instruct us to use our freedom in that way? How does the Gospel truly free us to love God and others?**
- Paul uses one of his go-to metaphors about running a race to describe faith and following Jesus (v.7). **When have you been running a good race in your faith, but something hindered your progress or caused you to stumble? What role does hope (v.5) play in helping us get back to running the good race?**

Read Galatians 5:16-26

- Reflect back over the *Recognizing the Fruit of the Spirit* exercise you completed this week (pg. 131).
 - **What did you learn about the fruit of the Spirit?**
 - **Which characteristics come most easily for you? Which are the least natural for you?**
 - **Which of the fruit of the Spirit do you need to ask God to cultivate more in your life?**
 - **What is one next step you can take to allow God to better cultivate this fruit in your life?**
- Galatians 5:16-26 sets up a conflict between our sinful nature and the fruit the Holy Spirit wants to produce in our lives. **What do you learn about our sinful nature and how it works? In our culture, how do you see the characteristics of our sinful nature celebrated or promoted? What negative effects do these have on society, even if people care nothing about God?**
- Paul reminds us that there is a spiritual battle going on within us (v.17). It is a matter of who is producing fruit in our lives: the desires of our sinful nature or the desires of the Holy Spirit. **In your own life, how do you feel the tension with this inner spiritual battle? As you get older do you find this battle easier, harder, or different?**
- Our freedom in Christ sets the stage for us to live life by the Spirit. **How can you actively and practically “keep in step with the Spirit” in your daily life (5:25)? As a group, how can we pray for each other and the fruit that the Holy Spirit wants to produce in our lives?**

LIVE IT OUT

Do you often follow your own course, or do you lean on God to guide you? Being led by and keeping in step with the Holy Spirit is a lifelong grace-filled journey. Look back over the next steps in *How Do I Cultivate the Fruit of the Spirit* (pg. 132). Which do you need to pursue? At the same time, the fruit of the Spirit is cultivated in relationships. This is one of the many reasons Paul tells us to use our freedom in Christ to love and serve others (vv.5:6,13-14). What is a specific way you can use your freedom in Christ to serve someone else this week? The answers to these questions may just allow the Holy Spirit to cultivate and produce more fruit in your life.

Daily Bible Study: Take 30 minutes each day to complete the daily study guide. Don't think of it as homework, but relational time growing alongside your Heavenly Father. Your time with God will transform you and help encourage others. Come ready to discuss what you are learning at the next group session.

Memorize: *Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

– Galatians 5:25

