

# Group Discussion Guide for Week of 9/15/2019

## Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text from Sunday Sermon; *Galatians 5:16-26 (NIV)*

<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup> The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

**Observation** (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

### Discussion/Topic Starters (Ice Breakers)

- What are some of the biggest struggles you have faced in life?
- O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

**Know** (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)

### v.16-26

- O: Leading up to this passage Paul has been writing about being enslaved to legalism. In this passage what does he now write about being enslaved to?
- O: Discuss the CONFLICT in v.17 as well as how you see it in your everyday life.
- O: Small, BUT important: Notice the little word *but* in verses 18 and 22, and identify the important contrast or the change in direction that this word highlights in each verse.
  - Follow-up: Why is a person not “under the law” if he or she is “led by the Spirit” (v.18)?
- I: Discuss the imagery/descriptions of our interaction(s) with the Holy Spirit. How does this passage describe our interaction with the Holy Spirit and what do we learn from them?
  - Note: “walk by the Spirit.. led by the Spirit... fruit of the Spirit ... live by the Spirit,... keep in step with the Spirit.”
  - Note: consider comparing/contrasting “acts” in v.19 and “fruit” in v.22.
  - o Follow-up: What do we learn about God (the Holy Spirit) from these descriptions? (**KNOW**)
  - o Follow-up: How would you describe “being led by the Spirit” to a brand new Christian or someone who doesn’t know God (*aka, explain how it looks very practically, in everyday life, without using inside Christians language/assumptions*)
- I: According to this passage, what is God’s role and what is our role in us becoming more like Jesus?
  - o Follow-up: Based on “our role,” how are you doing with that? (**DO**)
- I: Keith (in Sunday’s sermon) latched on to the image of “walk by the Spirit” and then he proceeded to say that (in general) walking is unspectacular, slow, yet requires perseverance. What are your thoughts on that (walking being unspectacular...) and it’s connection to our relationship and journey with Jesus and the Holy Spirit?
- I: Suppose a new Christian asked you, “How can I know that the Holy Spirit lives in me?” How could you use v. 22–23 to help you give a meaningful answer?
- A: How would you describe your own personal progress in living out the truth expressed in v.24? (**BE**)
- A: How can you/us “Keep in step with the Spirit (v.25) this next week? Be very specific and practical (**DO**)
  - How WILL you respond this week? What one question do you want us to ask of you next week in regard to this?

### Recommended Follow-up:

- Pray: Pray together, and really focus in on that the Holy Spirit is in us and in the room, and He wants us to lead/guide/comfort us.
- Respond: Spend this week responding to God’s word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week’s companion devotional guide.
- Read: Next week’s sermon (9/22/19) will focus on James 2:14-24. Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the passage, pray through the passage, meditate on the passage, as well as journey through this week’s companion devotional guide.

## **An explanation on how Riverside structures these discussion guides\*:**

Riverside defines a disciple of Jesus as a **“Know, Be, Do”** person. And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do” framework in our discussion guides.

Riverside leadership regularly asks questions around these areas:

- “What do we need to **know** about God?”
- “Who do we need to **be**?”
- “What do we need to **do**?”

Here is what we mean by “Know, Be, Do” (based on Colossians 1:9-10, see below)

**Know** – *“to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..., growing in the knowledge of God”* Not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Him personally, intimately, and deeply. This is also about knowing the scriptures, knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit, even knowing yourself.

**Be** – *“so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way”* Becoming more like Jesus (sanctification). This is about our character and our heart and our motivations, our passions and convictions change the more we get to Know Jesus (and others).

**Do** – *“bearing fruit in every good work, ...”* Knowing Jesus and Becoming like Jesus practically will change our actions. As we grow in these areas we will naturally DO the things that Jesus did while in the flesh on earth (living and loving like Jesus). Some broad categories around DO are evangelism and justice and service.

Notice *“bearing fruit in every good work”* then yields more *“growing in the knowledge of God.”* In other words, while “Know, Be, Do” are three distinct words, they are deeply interconnected.

As a side note, the next chapter states: *<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:6-8)*  
To aid in this process Riverside also has a **daily devotional guide available each week.**

### **Colossians 1:9-10, NIV**

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...*

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\* As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid “go through this guide word-for-word.” There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guide relies heavily upon the following resources: Thomas, Mack. *The Complete Bible Discussion Guide: Old Testament and New Testament*, Serendipity Bible for Personal and Small Group Study, Zondervan