

Group Discussion Guide for Week of 9/29/2019

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text from Sunday Sermon; *Galatians 6:1-5 (NIV)*

¹ Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. ⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ⁵ for each one should carry their own load.

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

Discussion/Topic Starters (Ice Breakers)

- How did your parents discipline you growing up? Was it constructive, gentle, loud, abusive... what was your general experience of "correction" growing up?
- 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.1-5

- O: What is the "law of Christ" mentioned in **verse 2?** (KNOW)

Note: Some critical background on Galatians. In this early church, some Jewish believers had come in and were requiring Christians to follow the customs and the laws of the old covenant. Paul (who wrote Galatians) is furious with this, and instead calls the church, to follow the new law (new covenant) of Jesus. See Gal 3:1-4 (also v.10 & 13) for a good snap-shot of this tension.

*****Follow-up:** How is this law of Christ fulfilled when we "Carry each other's burdens?"

- I: What does it mean when it says, "you who live by the Spirit" in **v.1?** (BE)
- I: What are Biblical ways (and un-biblical ways) to bring correction and restoration to someone in the church? (DO)
- I: How does **v.5** relate to **v.2?** They seem somewhat contradictory.
*****Follow-up:** Discuss some examples of "burdens" in **v.2** compared to "loads" in **v.5**
- I: How can someone "test their own actions" according to **v.4?** (DO)
- A: Now look at **v.10**... read it... And discuss how we as a group can live out this type of community that is pictured here in Galatians ch.6. Share prayer request, discuss burdens currently in the group, etc.
- A: If you are aware of a sin in a fellow Christian's life, discern, based on this passage and the prompting of the Holy Spirit, what God wants you to do, and how, and then do it.
- A: If you are aware of an area of your life or an area in our church that you are not carrying your own load (**v.5**), discern, based on this passage and the prompting of the Holy Spirit, what God wants you to do, and how, and then do it.

Recommended Follow-up:

- **Pray:** Pray together, share prayer requests (and confession if needed) and truly pray for one another
- **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 (10/6/19) will focus on Haggai 1:1-7. 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: *“⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸ 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,...

* 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