

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of August 30-September 5, 2020

## “SPIRITUAL MATURITY AND THE HOLY SPIRIT”

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### GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

If you could change or improve one personality trait in yourself, what would it be?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

1. *Share.* Would you say that you are led by the Spirit (Gal. 5:18)? Why or why not? Do you follow your own course, or do you lean on God to guide you? Can you give an example? How can you become more dependent on the Spirit to direct you?
2. According to Galatians 5:16-17, what is going on inside every Christian? What causes the Christian's inner moral conflict? The word “desire” in Galatians 5:16-17 literally means “over-desires” – when we feel that we *must have* something, an all-controlling drive or longing for something. What this tell us about how the sinful nature works?
3. *Discuss.* Look at the manifestations of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-20. Pick out two or three and describe how you think they can become consequences of “over-desire.” Which of the works of the flesh do you think are most common and acceptable in our culture?
4. In Paul's warning about works of the flesh, he says in (verse 21) “those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” The Greek verb refers to habitual practice rather than an isolated lapse. Why is the distinction important? (See also 1 John 3:6.) Why is it easy to see the sins of the flesh in others and not within ourselves?
5. Think through the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. According to (verses 18,22,25) what is our part in producing these qualities? What is the Spirit's part? Which of the segments of this fruit do you particularly need to ask God to grow in you through his Spirit?

6. Why is crucifixion an appropriate description of what must happen to the sinful nature? How do you practically crucify the flesh? Give an example or a situation where this has been true in your life. How can personal standards fit into crucifixion without being a form of legalism?

7. How would you practically describe a believer who is walking in the Spirit? What are the signs that a believer is out of step with the Spirit?

### 8. [NEXT STEPS]

*Fans admire fruit; followers bear fruit.*

- ☐ I will live by the Spirit - walk by the Spirit and led by the Spirit.
- ☐ I will be aware of legalism.
- ☐ I will attune myself to the voice of the Spirit, to let him guide me.
- ☐ I will surrender my agenda and my plans to the Holy Spirit.
- ☐ I will ask for the Holy Spirit to speak to me as I study the Word.

*Don't forget to:*

- ☐ Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- ☐ Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

### CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, that you will be able to discern his prompting and leading.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.