Harvester Christian Church

Life Groups | **PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY**

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

“Leading people to find and follow Jesus” is the mission of Harvester Christian Church. “Find” has to do with salvation. When we put our trust in Jesus our sins are forgiven and we begin a new life with Him. “Follow” has to do with learning to live the life that God desires us to live. This includes being obedient to the Lord in our daily lives, but it also involves allowing His Spirit to work in us day-by-day to change us into the people we were created to be.

In Galatians, Paul gives us a clear picture of the change that God’s Spirit wants to produce in us. He contrasts the “acts of the sinful nature” (5:19-21) with what he calls the “fruit of the Spirit” (5:22-26). Out task this week is to take a deeper look at the nine virtues or qualities that make up the fruit of the Spirit. As we do, take time to do some self-evaluation. How am I doing in these areas? In what areas have I allowed the Spirit to change me and make me more like Jesus? In what areas am I resisting His work and living out of my flesh instead of living by the Spirit?

For each of the sections below we are encouraging you to do two things. First, **discover and write down a definition for each word** (love, joy, peace, etc.). This would be another great opportunity to use the Vines Expository Dictionary app on your phone or tablet (available as a free download). Second, **read and summarize each verse** listed under the section headings. Let’s ask God to guide us this week as we compare the lives we are currently living with the lives God longs for us to live by the power of His Spirit.

**Love**

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

1 John 3:16-18

1 John 4:7-8

James 2:8-9

**Joy**

James 1:2

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Philippians 3:1

**Peace**

Psalm 34:14

Matthew 5:9

John 14:27; 16:33

**Patience**

Colossians 3:12-13

2 Timothy 4:2

Hebrews 6:11-12

James 5:7-8

**Kindness**

I Corinthians 13:4

Ephesians 4:32

2 Timothy 2:24

**Goodness**

Luke 6:32-33

Romans 2:6-7

I Timothy 6:18

**Faithfulness**

I Corinthians 4:1-2

Hebrews 11:1

Revelation 17:14

**Gentleness**

Ephesians 4:1-3

1 Peter 3:15

James 1:19-20

**Self Control**

Proverbs 25:28

2 Timothy 1:7

1 Peter 4:7

**Weekly Challenge**

As you read through the verses above pertaining to the fruit of the Spirit, ask God to show you where He wants to do more work in your life. Pick one as a starting place. Write out the scriptures that pertain to that area and hang them in places where you will see them daily. For example, if you know you struggle with anger or harshness, find verses that speak to our need to be more gentle in our dealings with others. Let this serve as a reminder that God’s Spirit wants to renovate that aspect of your life.

**Group Discussion**

What stood out to you from the personal study or teaching this week?

In living out the fruit of the Spirit we are actually being called to imitate God. What examples can you share of how God has shown these virtues to you/us?

Paul’s emphasis in Galatians is not that we have to try harder to manufacture these virtues in our lives, but that God’s Spirit wants to produce this fruit in us. What’s the difference?

Who has been a good example in your life in regard to living out these virtues? For example, who do you know that shows great gentleness or patience?

Which of the above qualities would you like to see more of in your life and why?

The Bible teaches that we are known by our fruit. What do you think that means?

If you followed through on the weekly challenge above, please share about your experience this week.