

Small Group Questions
March 29, 2020
Series: Grow
Message: "In Gentleness"

This series will unpack the "fruit of the Spirit" listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Each week, one of the characteristics will be explained and applied to our lives from one primary passage. The "fruit of the Spirit" is all about the defining "look" of followers of Jesus and what followers of Jesus can become through the transforming power. Information is a good thing. If, however, information becomes the 'end game' for spiritual growth, it will not be result. Instead, information helps transformation when it assists a believer to become more like Jesus, which is what the list of characteristics describes. What are we becoming? This series gives us a bullseye but it is certainly not a one-time event or a short-term effort. Pursuit of the "fruit of the Spirit" endures and leads us closer to the One who gave Himself for us so that we could experience a whole new kind of life together with Him. We cannot achieve the "fruit of the Spirit" in our own power. We need God's help.

The main goal of this series is for people to experience personal transformation and to aim for the kind of life to which God call them, namely, a life defined by the "fruit of the Spirit."

Thank you once again for you service to God by loving the people in your group!

(Questions to get everyone to participate)

1. When you think of someone who is "gentle," who comes to mind? Why?
2. For what would you walk 100 miles? Why?

(Questions based on the primary texts)

Read Galatians 5:22-23 and Matthew 15:21-28.

3. Tyre and Sidon were places with a long and bad history with Israel and the Jewish people. Jesus walks 100 miles to get there. How would Jesus' accusers have viewed His going to this area?
4. From the story, what do you learn about the woman? About Jesus?
5. What is Jesus trying to get His disciples to understand about people in the category of "those people" i.e. people we do not like or associate with?
6. What do you make of Jesus' words, "you have great faith!"? What qualities of faith are revealed in the story?
7. Gentleness is "power under control." What kind of power do people exert? How can those areas of life be brought "under God's control?"
8. What one area of your life needs to be more under God's control right now? Why?