

Small Group Questions

February 9, 2020

Series: Grow

Message: "In Joy"

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. What do you look back on as the happiest days of your life? Why those days?
2. Are people naturally joyful or can that be learned? Explain.

(Questions based on the primary texts)

Read Galatians 5:22-23 and Philippians 4:8-13.

3. What is Paul thinking of in Philippians 4:8? Why do you think so?
4. In 4:9, Paul encourages the people to put his example into practice in their own lives. What have you learned from another person and applied to your life?
5. Knowing that Paul is writing this letter from prison, how do you read his "rejoicing" in :10? Can someone be legitimately joyful in tough circumstances? Why or why not?
6. What outside source is most likely to upset your contentment/joy?
7. Paul speaks of "learning the secret of contentment" in :12. How is :13 the revealing of that secret?
8. How would you finish the sentence: I need to learn more about the secret of contentment regarding...? How can you lean into God for more strength to do so?