

### **LEARN**

Read Galatians 5:19-26 together. What stands out to you from the passage, and what was encouraging/challenging from the sermon on Sunday?

How are the works of the flesh grouped together? What does this tell you about where the works of the flesh come out in people's lives?

(Sex, religion, relationships, indulgences. They come out everywhere, and they come out naturally because all that exists in the non-Christian is the flesh set against God.)

Why is it valuable to keep in mind that the "fruit" of the Spirit is treated as a singular by Paul?

(The entire list is the normal, though supernatural, work of the Spirit in every Christian's life. We don't work on one at a time, but they all grow in our lives like fruit from a tree. Good root, good fruit.)

### **PRACTICE**

What is the kind of peace the Spirit produces in our lives? Assessing your own life for a moment, how is that peace being expressed or not expressed in the hard circumstances of your life?

(Peace – a spirit-produced calm confidence in the wisdom/sovereignty/salvation of God. Opposite is anxiety, counterfeit is "indifference" – creating your own peace. Leaders: Dwell on this ahead of time, seek wisdom from the Spirit about really camping out here as a group. Many Christians live w/ little to no peace in the midst of trials. Ask God to search hearts, convict, encourage, bring people to confess/repent.)

No one embodies the entire list from v. 22-23 in equal measure at all times. When you see any of these as "off" in your life, what should you do?

(Examples include seeking the Lord in prayer to produce the fruit of the Spirit more completely in your life, repent of sin that may be connected to fruit not showing in your life, take rest in the fact that growing in Christ is a process and the Spirit is producing fruit in your life, etc.)

What does it actually look like in your life to "crucify the flesh"? Share personally about how God has changed your passions and desires away from works of the flesh and toward glorifying God.

(As Christians, we have crucified the flesh in a very real sense by being converted to Christ. Yet we know sin remains and the battle is real. The point: confession, repentance, rejecting temptation toward the flesh and laying hold of the power of the Spirit through prayer and obedience to the Word.)

### **CHANGE**

Spend 1-2 minutes silently surveying both lists in the passage. Then, answer this together: In what ways or areas of life do you sense the works of the flesh still present? What does God want you to do about it? Spend at least 10 minutes in prayer as a men's/women's group asking God to reveal sin in your heart and to crucify it by his power.

(Leaders: Take this wherever seems best for your group. You could pray for one another, or encourage personal prayer. The "win" would be your people asking God to search their hearts, confessing where sin still can reign in their life and taking hold of the promise of God for freedom in Christ by the Spirit's power)