



## Life Group Connection Guide

Seeks to help you dig deeper into God's Word on your own and aid in your discussion in a Life Group during the week. Follow the simple prompts below in a journal or together in a small group setting. If you would like to join a midweek Life Group, please contact: [jon@neighborhoodchurch.com](mailto:jon@neighborhoodchurch.com)

### May 17 — Grace-Empowered Service (*Galatians 5:1-15*)

- **Welcome & Ice Breaker:**
  - *Go around the group and have everyone share: what's the weirdest, funniest, or most unexpectedly difficult way you've ever helped someone? Follow up with this question: what's one act of service someone did for you that you still remember?*
- **Important Dates:**
  - **Bible Day Camp Registration** Begins Friday, May 26 @ [neighborhoodchurch.com](http://neighborhoodchurch.com)
  - **Annual Celebration** Sunday, June 7 • SAVE THE DATE • More details to come!!!
- **Opening Prayers:**
  - **Hold yourself before the Lord // Psalm 139:23**
    - *What emotions are you feeling as you come to Life Group?*
    - Hold all of yourself out to Him and sit quietly • Allow God to come close to you & care for you in prayer right now • Listen for His voice/presence/leading
  - **Hold what you are holding before the Lord // Psalm 90:17**
    - *What are you dealing with, working on, preparing for?*
    - Hold it out to Him and sit quietly • Allow God to come close to you & establish the work of your hands • Listen for His voice/presence/leading
  - **Return • Recommit • Repent • Reattach to the LORD who is with you // Psalm 139:24**
    - Draw near to God as He draws near to you
    - *"Heavenly Father, I live and have my being in You. I humbly pray You would so guide & govern me by Your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations in my life that I may not forget You, but may remember that I am ever walking in Your sight; through Jesus Christ my Lord, amen."*
- **Scripture Passage: Galatians 5:1-5**
  - Begin by reading the passage out loud; even a few times if it is a shorter passage in order to let it settle down inside you.
  - As the Scripture is being read, pay attention to any word, phrase, or feeling that the Holy Spirit may be highlighting to you.
  - Then share what you noticed and/or write down your observations as the Spirit leads.

- **Discussion/Personal Reflection**

- What challenged you, or stood out to you during your devotional time with the Lord Jesus this week?
  
- If you were able to hear it, what did the Holy Spirit point out to you personally from Sunday's sermon?
  
- Read Galatians 5:1. What kind of freedom do you suppose Paul is talking about here? How does God's Spirit bring true freedom? What would true freedom look like in our everyday lives? All throughout Paul's letter, he talks about freedom from the Mosaic Law (5:18), liberation from the enslaving power of sin and the flesh (5:24), and freedom from the present evil age (1:3). How have you experienced freedom lately? In what ways? How has this freedom been a picture of the gospel of Jesus Christ?
  
- Read Galatians 5:5. This freedom in Christ means we receive the promise of the Holy Spirit (3:14). This life in the Spirit is marked by faith, hope and love. How have you experienced **faith** this past week? How have you seen your heart **hope** for better things from God this week? Has anyone shown you love like God's **love** this past week?
  
- Read Ephesians 3:16-17. What is the goal of the Holy Spirit? What is He trying to do deep down in us? How does the Holy Spirit escort us into the freedom of the Gospel of Grace? Our new life in the Spirit is marked by being called by the Spirit (5:8), walking by the Spirit (5:16), living full of fruits of the Spirit (5:22) and being in step with the Spirit (25). Often the Holy Spirit is the quiet and shy person of the Trinity, but the power of God to call us to salvation (4:6). Which of these roles of the Holy Spirit do you most identify with? Why do you think that is? Where might the Holy Spirit be inviting you to go deeper in obedience in order to experience true freedom in Christ Jesus this week?

- **Closing in Prayer:**

- Use this time to share prayer requests (with the Lord in a journal or with each other in a Life Group), holding them up to the Lord Jesus for His care & guidance this next week.
- Consider those who the Holy Spirit may be placing on your heart to pray for this day. Seek to hold them up to the Lord for His intervening love in their lives or in your own.
- *"Lord, who are You putting on my heart today? Who needs a special touch from You in their life? Who can I hold up to You in prayer?"*