

STUMIN

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

MIDDLE
SCHOOL
FOCUS

STEP BY STEP

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Week 4 of a 5-week series
about transformation

BOTTOM LINE

Look for the Holy Spirit
in you.

SCRIPTURE

*But the fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, [patience],
kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness
and self-control.
- Galatians 5:22-23a NIV*

*My old self has been crucified
with Christ. It is no longer I
who live, but Christ lives in
me. So I live in this earthly
body by trusting in the Son of
God, who loved me and gave
himself for me.
- Galatians 2:20 NLT*

GOALS OF SMALL GROUP

To show students the way
walking with the Spirit of
God will change them over
time and to encourage
them to see the Holy Spirit
working in the person they
are right now



>> BEFORE GROUP

THINK ABOUT THIS: In this phase of development, students may struggle to have the self-awareness to recognize the fruit of the Spirit in themselves. That's because they're still developing an overall awareness of themselves right now! If they do recognize it, they may hesitate to say what they see in themselves to avoid appearing prideful. Or they may say they see every single fruit of the Spirit in themselves because they simply don't have the awareness to see where they may struggle. One of the best ways to direct the conversation this week is to point out what you see the Holy Spirit doing in your students. Or even better, give them the chance to point out the fruit of the Spirit in one another! Not only will it offer them some encouragement and make them feel seen by the people in their group, but it will also give them the starting point they need to self-reflect.

>> DURING GROUP

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

DO THIS:

Pass out pens and the provided self-inventory journal page to your students and have them complete it independently.

DISCUSS THIS:

- What's one thing you wrote down on your journal page that you would like to share?
- Who's the best human you know and why?
- How are you similar to them?
- How are you different from them?
- Where do you see the Holy Spirit in them?
- Where do you see the Holy Spirit in you?
- Where you do see the Holy Spirit in our small group as a whole and/or in its individual members?
- In what ways should we be asking the Holy Spirit to work in our group so more fruit can grow?

DO THIS:

Close in prayer together as a group. Thank God for the fruit that exists in your students and pray for God to keep growing the fruit they want to see more of in their lives.

STUMIN

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

HIGH SCHOOL FOCUS

STEP BY STEP

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**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

>> BEFORE GROUP

THINK ABOUT THIS: In this phase of life, believing change is possible can be hard. So many students feel like they are who they are at this point. Or maybe, they are who everyone else thinks they are. That makes seeing themselves and their lives differently more challenging, but certainly not impossible! This week, focus the conversation on the way the Spirit of God changes us. When we let God work in and through us, there's always potential for change and growth in our lives.

>> DURING GROUP

Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed and ask thoughtful follow-up questions as the conversation unfolds. Don't feel like you need to answer every question.

DISCUSS THIS:

- Share what you thought about during the message when asked: *What's one thing you love about who you are?*
- What was your first thought when you heard this during the message: *We all have things to work on, and areas to grow in. And we always will!*
 - ◊ It feels comforting to realize that I am not alone in my desire to make improvements in my life.
 - ◊ This sounds exhausting or even overwhelming to me.
 - ◊ I've never thought about this before and have no idea where to start.
 - ◊ I'm good with who I am and don't see a need to change.
 - ◊ Something else. Explain.
- Tell us about a time it felt like you hit a homerun in the game of life.
- Tell us about a time it felt like you "swung and missed" in the game of life.
- What are some of the amazing ways you have seen the fruit of the Spirit in our small group and/or the individuals in it?

TRY THIS:

Ask your group to reflect on their day and do the self-assessment that was described in the message. Remind them to ask themselves questions like: *How loving was I today? Who did I love well? Who could I have been more loving toward? Where did I show self-control? When should I have practiced more patience? Did I begin and end the day with a joyful heart? What kind of fruit is my life producing? Is it good fruit or rotten fruit?* Then, share with one another about the experience. Specifically, share one thing you feel great about and one thing you feel no-so-great about.

TRY THIS:

Challenge your students to have a conversation with a trusted adult who exemplifies a fruit of the Spirit they want to see more in their own lives. Have them ask questions like: *How did you become (loving, patient, kind, etc.) What advice would you give someone looking to become more (insert trait)? What challenges do you face when trying to practice (insert trait)?*