

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Actions

October 5 & 6, 2019

In his Sermon on the Mount Jesus taught that people will be known by the “fruit” of their lives (Matthew 7:16-20). That is to say, people will know if we are rooted in Christ by our actions. Interesting thing about fruit. In nature its primary purpose is to spread seed to reproduce. In the same way, our actions either proclaim the goodness of Christ, or not.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: GALATIANS 5:16-26

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

We want you to know how profoundly important you are in the Kingdom of God. Over these weeks we’ve been exploring our lives as disciples through the lens of the five purposes of the Church: Worship, Mission (Evangelism), Discipleship, Fellowship and Ministry (Service). This weekend I want to challenge us to think about how our actions impact others. When the outward expression of our lives is animated by God’s Spirit, things come to life. When the way we love our lives is rooted in and motivated by our own whims, then things sooner or later—mostly sooner, just die.

The book of Galatians has a lot to do with living in the new-found freedom of Christ. We’ve been set free; we’re free indeed. But with that freedom comes so much responsibility. The heartbreak that comes with freedom happens when we live without limits, without boundaries; when we live for ourselves – what Paul calls Works of the Flesh. The heartbeat of freedom takes place when we live animated by the Spirit which brings things to life. This was an important binary for the first century church and Paul drew a pretty clear line between the two. Things of the flesh were seen as self-centered, self-motivated, self-preserving. Things of the spirit were the opposite of that, other-centered, other motivated, other-preserving.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In Galatians, Paul lays out boundaries for us to consider. What is the danger of too few boundaries?
- How does leaning into the fruits of the Spirit impact our actions?
- Which of the fruits of the Spirit seem easiest to you? Which ones are hardest? Why do you think that is?

APPLICATION: This week, read v. 22-23 every day. What impact do these words have on your actions when revisited on a daily basis?