

Small Group Notes based on The Spirit 3

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- This Week: The Fruit of the Spirit.
 - There are two major ways God changes and empowers us through the Holy Spirit: Gifts and Fruit.
 - Which do you think is more important? Why?
 - What are gifts? What is fruit?
 - **1 Corinthians 13:1-3.** Let that sink in. Wow. Fruit is way more important.
 - Have you seen gifts without fruit? That is ugly isn't it?
 - False prophets have gifts. **Matthew 7:15-16**
- What does the Bible say the fruits of the Spirit are? **Galatians 5:22-23**
- What would the opposites of the fruits of the Spirit be?
 - Love – indifference, exploitation, hate
 - Joy – misery, purposelessness, pain
 - Peace – strife, war, destruction
 - Patience – impatience, incomplete,
 - Kindness – cruelty, calloused
 - Goodness – evil, immoral
 - Faithfulness – fearfulness, unreliable,
 - Gentleness – insensitive, prideful
 - Self-Control – owned, foolish, undisciplined
- What if someone brings the opposite fruit to church, family, work, school?
 - People get hurt. Don't be like that.
- Add all the fruits of the Spirit together what does it equal?
 - Happiness! Who doesn't want that? **1 Timothy 6:6**
 - Redemption! The old is gone the new has come! **2 Corinthians 5:17**
 - Thy Kingdom Come! The law written on our hearts in this way on a global scale! Come on!
 - Do you see how simple this is?
- How do you get the fruit of the Spirit?
 - Common plan that must be rejected:
 - Feeling guilty about not having Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, etc. and then just trying harder. Normal result of that is just more guilt.
 - I appreciate you trying (keep at it!), but that is seeking spiritual strength from the wrong source. **Galatians 3:3**
 - There is a big concept here: operating "from" the Kingdom vs "for" the Kingdom.
 - **John 16:12-15 (focus on 14-15)**
 - You don't produce a new heart and offer it to God. God has it. The Holy Spirit will create a new heart in you if you will let Him. Discuss how that works.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!