

# GROUP GUIDE – FORMED BY THE GOSPEL

## SESSION 1:4 | WALK IN THE SPIRIT

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### Key Scriptures

- Galatians 5:16–26
- Romans 8:1–11
- John 15:1–8
- Romans 6:6–11
- Ezekiel 36:26–27
- Matthew 7:16–20
- Colossians 2:20–23

### Big Idea

Walking in the Spirit means bearing fruit like Jesus. We do not manifest spiritual life; we walk in the Spirit, and fruit grows.

### Ice Breakers (Choose one)

- Where do you feel pressure to improve or perform in life?
- When you hear the word “fruit,” what comes to mind spiritually?

### Discussion Questions (As time allows)

1. Galatians 5:16, Romans 8:4 — What does Paul mean by “walk by the Spirit”? How is walking different from isolated spiritual moments?
2. Galatians 5:17-18, Romans 8:5-6 — How does Paul describe the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit? Why is there no neutral ground?
3. Galatians 5:19-21, Matthew 7:17 — Why does Paul call these the works of the flesh, but the fruit of the Spirit?
4. Galatians 5:21; Philippians 1:6 — Why is Paul concerned with the ongoing direction of someone’s life rather than isolated failures?
5. Galatians 5:22–23 — Why does Paul say the fruit of the Spirit (singular) instead of fruits? What does this tell us about spiritual formation?

6. John 15:4–10; Galatians 5:22 — How does Jesus' teaching about abiding help us understand fruit-bearing?
7. Galatians 5:24; Romans 6:6–7 — What does it mean that the flesh has been crucified with Christ?
8. Galatians 5:25 — What's the difference between living by the Spirit and keeping in step with the Spirit?
9. Matthew 7:16–20 – How did the real vs. fake fruit illustration clarify the difference between flesh and Spirit?
10. Romans 8:11; Ezekiel 36:26–27 – Why is the gospel essential to walking in the Spirit?

### **Application**

Read Colossians 3:12-17 together. Paul uses deliberate put on language to describe how life in the Spirit is lived out daily. This passage shows us that walking in the Spirit is not passive — it is an intentional, Spirit-empowered participation in the new life we already have in Christ.

### **Examples**

- Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience
- Bearing with one another and forgiving as the Lord has forgiven you
- Letting the peace of Christ rule your heart
- Letting the word of Christ dwell in you richly
- Doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus

We don't put these on to earn God's favor — we put them on because we already belong to Him.

### **Key Takeaway**

*Paul reminds us that the Christian life is a walk, not a performance. We are either walking in the flesh or walking in the Spirit, and the direction we walk in shapes the fruit our lives bear. We do not manifest spiritual life or force spiritual growth. Instead, we walk in step with the Spirit, trusting Him to produce the fruit that reflects the life of Jesus in us as we continually submit and surrender to the Spirit each day.*