

## 5 | GROUP PRAYER

Rather than going around the group and sharing prayer requests, you might consider simply bowing your heads and taking turns praying for the things on your heart or that the Holy Spirit brings to mind.

# NEXT STEPS AFTER GROUP

## 1 | SCRIPTURE FOCUSED

• Verse to Memorize: \_\_\_\_\_

• Other Passages to Read: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 | PRAYER FOCUSED

- How can you pray for people in your group this week?
- Is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about something you need to repent of and turn over to Jesus?
- How are you going to respond to this truth and put it into action?

## 3 | OTHERS FOCUSED

- Did anyone in your group share a need that you might be gifted to help with?
- Consider inviting a friend from group to meet up for a meal or a hang out time.
- Is the Holy Spirit bringing someone to mind with whom you can share the things you've learned today?

# GROUPS

## STUDY GUIDE

### Why Would I Prepare BEFORE My Lighthouse Group?

Reading, thinking, and praying about the primary passage your Lighthouse Group is studying ahead of time may be one of the most pivotal ways to make your Lighthouse Group discussions powerful and meaningful. When you do prepare beforehand, you're coming with thoughtful insights and ideas you've been wrestling through. That's different from grabbing at the most accessible thoughts in real time.

### How Do I Prepare BEFORE My Lighthouse Group?

#### 1 | PRAY

Ask God to open your eyes, mind, and spirit to His truth. Your desire is not to "get the right answer," but rather to know Him as He has revealed Himself so that you can trust and rely on Him more fully.

#### 2 | READ

Read the main passage. Consider reading the same passage in multiple versions, like ESV, NIV, AMP, and NLT. All of these can be found at [BibleGateway.com](http://BibleGateway.com). For better context, read the paragraphs before and after the study passage as well.

#### 3 | REFLECT

What does this passage teach you about God? Maybe something to praise Him for? Does this passage reveal an area of your life you should confess as sin to God? What does this passage lead you to ask God for? How does this passage point to Jesus work on the cross and out of the grave?

Think through some of the questions you'll be discussing during your Lighthouse Group time.

#### 4 | WRITE

This is when you cross over from reading into study - writing down truth that you are discovering. Write down questions that come to mind as you are reading.

We've included space on the next page of this guide for you to write down insights, questions, and more that you can bring up in your Lighthouse Group discussion time.

# PREP BEFORE GROUP

PRIMARY PASSAGE: Galatians 5:16-26

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Ezekiel 36:25-27; John 3:3-8; Romans 8:8-13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1-7.

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: November 4-10

1 | **PRAY:** Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your group in truth and spiritual growth.

2 | **READ GALATIANS 5:16-26**

One volunteer reads the passage in the ESV or NIV. Another volunteer reads the passage in AMP or NLT.

3 | **CONSIDER SITUATIONAL/HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Paul wrote this letter to explain some basic truths. Because Jesus was a Jew who followed the Jewish law perfectly, many of these early believers thought they had to follow the Jewish law in order to follow Him. Paul pointed out that Jesus calls us—whether Jew or Gentile—to walk in faith by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the exact opposite of following any list of rules by our own power. We don't follow a code of law when we come to Christ by faith; we obey the Holy Spirit who lives within us from the moment we put our faith in Christ. That indwelling Spirit moves us—and empowers us—to put aside our old, sinful nature and demonstrate the nature of Christ through our transformed lives. It's a supernatural act that God accomplishes in us, and it's visible for all to see.

4 | **DISCUSSION**

## CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. Can there be any compromise between our sinful nature and the godly character the Spirit wants to develop within us?
2. How commonplace are the acts of the sinful nature listed in vv. 19-21?
3. Who produces the fruit of the Spirit in our lives?

## TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. Why are there laws against the acts of the sinful nature, but not against the fruit of the Spirit?
2. Why is it so easy to follow our sinful nature?
3. In God's eyes, are some of the sins listed in vv. 19-21 more serious than others?

## APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. If you are a Christ-follower, have you seen a change in your desires since coming to him?
2. Does God expect us to suddenly become perfect once we're saved?
3. How can we win our battle against our old sinful habits?