

LEADER PAGE | Acts | WEEK 5 of 30 | Sermon date: January 30, 2022

Discipleship Phrase: God's church, God's way. **Big Idea for Series:** God's church is built on His principles.

Abiding (grow as a disciple yourself)

Walking with the Lord is a lifelong journey. It's directional, not a destination. We all have times where we're really in tune with the Spirit, and then other times where we're way out of step. But Galatians 5:25 says, "If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit." Again, directional, not a destination. So, for those of us who take up the name of Jesus, we should reflect the heart of Jesus by the way we walk it out, or the way we "keep in step" with the Spirit. Read all of Galatians 5 this week before group and spend time in prayer with the Lord simply listening to what His word is saying to you this season.

Leading (facilitate your group effectively)

This week we are focusing on the evidence of God's Spirit within our lives and the purpose we have as followers of Christ. As you lead discussion this week, help members discover the evidence (fruit) of God working in their life. This is a great follow-through after people have shared their stories last week. If you haven't started this with your group, please review last week's curriculum to get more information. Digging deeper into our hearts, what spiritual fruit is evident in your life that show you are a Christian. Each of us are in different places of growth in our spiritual journey and it is important that we continue to move forward. Recognize that spiritual fruit is meant to empower and equip us in drawing others to Christ.

Shepherding (know, feed, lead, and protect the sheep)

The intention of the questions from these first few weeks of group has been to set a baseline for you as a leader and a shepherd. Hopefully, through your in-group time, you've done well at inviting your members into sharing some deep and meaningful pieces of themselves. Absorb that, take it in. Familiarize yourself with each person in your group without assuming you have them "figured out". This should give you some perspective on them, personally, as we venture deep into the group season. Knowing these things, will allow you to shepherd well, knowing when to press in, and when best to press pause. We all could use more fruit of the Spirit, let's affirm one another in the areas we can so that we reflect our God well.

<u>**Church Announcements**</u> (be in the know & share with your group)

Financial Peace University starts February 24, 2022. This year you can attend for FREE! Click <u>here</u> for more information and to register!

REMEMBER: "Every group deserves a great leader."



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Welcome/Introductions (creating a relational environment starts here; be friendly & acknowledge everyone)

Open in Prayer (kickoff every group gathering with honoring the Lord)

Ice Breaker, God Moments, or Highs & Lows (choose one that is best for your group this week)

Weekly Vision Checklist (See Flipbook re: announcements, the "why", goal, outreach, guidelines, & branching)

Ask a Hook Question (a thought-provoking question to get the group heading in the right direction) Share your top 3 favorite fruits and why?

Recap the Message (ask a <u>couple</u> people to share what stood out to them in this week's message)

Scriptures References (Read scriptures **directly from the Bible**—it carries its own authority)

Acts 4:1-31 (ESV), Mark 15: 6:15 (ESV), Matthew 11:2-6 (ESV), Isaiah 61:1-3 (ESV), John 8:31-36 (ESV), 1 John 5:1-12 (ESV), Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV), Psalm 118:21-24 (ESV), John 5:18-20 (ESV)

Implications (takeaways from the message)

- 1. Sometimes it is hard to see God at work in our circumstances.
- 2. God is always working; it is not always easy to follow him.
- 3. The purpose of the church is to invite people into a life full of the Spirit of God.

Discussion Questions (going beyond the surface)

- 1. Read Galatians 5:22-23 out loud. What is the fruit of the Spirit, how do we have it, and why is it singular, not plural?
- 2. Fruit of the Spirit is the evidence of God working in your life. Which one of these could you personally grow more in this season and why?
- 3. What's one thing that you could begin doing now to grow in the area, of fruit, that you struggle with the most?

Prayer Requests (record, share, and follow up throughout the week. Use the LEAD App or CCB if possible.)

Closing Prayer (ask openly for a volunteer, encourage your people to step outside of their comfort zone regularly)