



Small Groups

Small Group Discussion Guide

Living and Loving Like Jesus at Home

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Galatians 5:16-26

(Discussion Guide by Erin Rodewald)

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When my daughters were young, they listened to a particular Bible sing-along CD so often they practically wore it out. Their favorite track was a song called *O Be Careful Little Eyes*. The tune was catchy and the lyrics simple: "O be careful little eyes what you see, for the Father up above is looking down in love. So be careful little eyes what you see." Each verse was a riff on the first — be careful what you hear, what you say, what you do, etc. For me, it became so much background noise. Until the day I realized the song was aimed not at the girls, but at me. As the mommy, I was the one who needed to be careful what I said, what I heard, what I did. Because, yes, the Father was watching . . . but so were my girls!

As Christians, our greatest challenge is living and loving like Jesus among the very people we love the most. As we spend time getting to know Jesus each day, those we love and hold close will see the evidence of Jesus through us.

Opening Question: Read Galatians 5:16-26, then consider what's in your spiritual fruit basket lately? Or what do you wish you had more of in your basket?

As Christians, we seek to learn the truth of God's word. But it is equally important to live out that truth each day. Here are 7 essential points to ponder on the way to becoming more like Jesus:

I. You can't make yourself more like Jesus; only God can make you more like Jesus

Philippians 1:6 (ESV) "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

- 1. How does the Holy Spirit shape and mold our attitudes throughout the day? What tools has He used in your life?**
- 2. 17th century religious freedom advocate William Penn wrote, "Stop arguing about Christ and start *living* like Christ." What is the difference between *talking* about your faith and *living* your faith?**

II. God's plan doesn't focus on incremental adjustments to His standards. It focuses on radical change by his Spirit

Ephesians 4:22-24 (ESV) "Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires...be renewed in the spirit of your minds...put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

1. **Spiritual change is more than simple mind over matter—it's a heart shift. Share a time when the Holy Spirit grabbed hold of your heart and transformed your thinking and acting.**

III. **God initiates change from the inside out**

Colossians 3:8 (NIV) "But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips."

1. **Have you ever witnessed bigotry, malice, slander or other hateful sins first-hand or had them directed at you? If so, what was your reaction?**
2. **As Christians, how can we respond to the evil in our world today? Read Micah 6:8.**

IV. **There is a war raging between your flesh and God's Spirit**

Romans 7:19 (ESV) "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing."

Romans 8:5 (ESV) "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit."

1. **How do you win the battle between sin and the Spirit? Share practical ways you have found to help set your mind on the things of the Holy Spirit.**

V. **Living with an unrepentant attitude reveals your unregenerate heart**

Ephesians 2:1, 4-5 (ESV) "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins...But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."

1. **Uninterrupted, unending patterns of sin are a trap. How can we tap into God's grace instead?**

VI. **God's goal for you is not that others see a new you, but that others see Jesus through you**

1. **Is there someone who stands out in your life as one who reflects Jesus? Describe him or her.**
2. **What does it look like to live in such a way that those who know you, but don't know God, will come to know God because of you?**

VII. **Ultimately, Jesus will be seen in you by the fruit of the Spirit flowing from you**

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

1. **Our world needs to see Jesus. Our kids and families need to see Jesus. How can you tend your spiritual orchard this week at home and in your community?**