

**BIG IDEA**

When we are open to the Spirit, we will be transformed to become more and more like Jesus.

**SCRIPTURE**

Galatians 5:16-26; see also: John 14:16-18, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

**ICEBREAKER & OPENING THOUGHT**

1. If you could instantly become an expert in a particular field, what would it be?
2. Our community has been challenged to pray the open prayer. Have you been able to pray that this last week? What did you experience?

**BIBLE DISCUSSION**

3. Read Galatians 5:13-26. What do you notice?
4. Paul contrasts life by the flesh with life by the Spirit. What might it mean for a person to live according to the flesh? According to the Spirit? (See the Leader's Guide for help navigating these terms)
5. Notice Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit as an outcome of staying in step with the Spirit. He doesn't say to aim at these characteristics, but that this fruit will be produced in those who live by the Spirit. What is the difference between trying to be good and allowing the Spirit to produce the characteristics?

**LIFE APPLICATION**

6. In verse 26 Paul says to keep in step with the Spirit. To be in step with the Spirit means we continually surrender our lives to the work of God's Spirit in our life. What are some ways you'd like to surrender to God?
7. See the two columns of questions below. In what ways can you identify with questions from either column?

**Motivated by flesh**

How can I find the most favorable circumstances?  
How can I respond to make myself look good?  
What decision would advance my interests?  
What do I want to say in this moment?

**Motivated by the Spirit**

How is God at work in this circumstance?  
How would Jesus respond in this situation?  
How could I honor God in this decision?  
How might God be speaking in this moment?

8. What questions could you commit to asking this week?

**CHALLENGE**

Let's keep praying the Open prayer this week:

*God, I am open to your Holy Spirit. Make me ever-aware of your presence dwelling in me. Speak to me, transform me, and empower me to be more like Jesus. God, I am open to your Holy Spirit. Amen.*