



STUDY GUIDE

PARENTING 216 09.09.2018

[start with prayer]

Missions Prayer Focus this week:
Pearl Island Team #3—Serving September 16-28

[set up]

What is one characteristic of your parents that you appreciated when you were growing up?

What is one characteristic that you hope your children will appreciate about you?

[digging deeper]

Read Galatians 5:22-23 where God shares “The Fruit of the Spirit” through the Apostle Paul.

When you read through this list of characteristics that are guaranteed to come from the life of a follower of Christ through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, what are your immediate thoughts or observations?

In Galatians 5:19 we are given a list of the “works of the flesh” and here in Galatians 5:22-23 the “Fruit of the Spirit.” What is the significance of the word “Works” verses “Fruit”? Think of the distinctions and differences in the words and the general theme in Galatians 5.

How do the following verses relate to what we see in Galatians 5:22-23? Have each person write a summary sentence and then talk about what connections you see between these verses and the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5.

Ephesians 4:22-24 _____

1 John 2:6 _____

John 15:1-5 _____

Write out all nine Fruit of the Spirit in the space below. Circle 1-2 of the fruit that you have seen Christ strongly developing in you and underline 1-2 that you feel are still in the need of greater development in your life. A courageous next step would be to ask your spouse, children, or friends to answer this for you to get insights from their observations.

How does everything we just discussed play out in parenting?

What are you doing now to try and demonstrate the Fruit of the Spirit in your home? What areas of growth do you long for in your parenting and home?

[living it out]

We can't manufacture the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives and homes. We can't just work harder and see it manifested. As fruit—from the Spirit—it has to grow over time as we abide in Christ and cultivate its growth through time with the Lord and our dependence with Him.

[end with prayer]

Use Galatians 5:22-23 as a prayer guide as you close your group. Profess your dependence on Christ for this fruit to grow. Praise Him for where you have seen growth. Confess where there has been weakness and failure. Ask the Lord to grow this fruit in you and in your family.