



### Small Group Study Questions

As you reflect on the sermon from this week, was there anything you heard for the first time? Was there something said that challenged you or confused you?

#### Getting to Know You

1. Share one way you experienced joy over the holidays. Did you get to see or feel that joy from someone else? Can you describe any conversations you had about Jesus over the past month?

#### Digging Deeper

Our “Big Idea” this week is **Satan likes religion**. In John 8:31–47, Jesus confronted the false belief of those who thought they were free because of their religious heritage. However, their wicked behavior revealed the bondage of their self-deception. Those who know God through his Son are those who are truly liberated—free from slavery to sin to live in a way that exhibits his new life from their hearts.

2. How would you say our culture defines the word “freedom”? How do you define “freedom”?

In Galatians 5:13–26, the Apostle Paul describes the freedom that Jesus gives to his followers. Read this passage carefully and prayerfully as you answer the following questions.

3. What is the purpose for why believers have been set free according to 5:13–15? What does an abuse of this freedom look like?
4. Paul uses terms like “walk by the Spirit” (v.16) and being “led by the Spirit” (v. 18) to describe the ongoing journey of the one who seeks to live a life that pleases Jesus. How have you seen this process worked out in your life? How would you describe the journey? What are the challenges of daily walking by the Spirit?
5. Galatians 5:19–21 describes the work of the flesh while 5:22–23 describes the fruit of the Spirit. What do you see are the biggest differences between the intentions and purposes of these two groups of characteristics? Explain your answers.

6. In verse 18, Paul writes, “But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” How do you think followers of Jesus can show those around them that they behave the way they do because they’re truly free?

Romans 8:9–11 is one of our passages this week in our VBCdaily3 devotionals ([valleybible.org/vbcdaily3](http://valleybible.org/vbcdaily3)). Take a few moments to answer the three questions that we ask: What does this passage say about God? What does it say about us? What do you believe we ought to do about it?

### **Live It Out**

7. Pastor Paul challenged us this week to examine if our words and behaviors show others that Jesus has liberated us from sin. Pick one of the fruits of the Spirit from Gal. 5:22–23 and describe how that characteristic could point others to the freedom that Jesus gives.
  
8. In these socially and politically tense days in our country, what difference should the fruit of the Spirit make in the speech and conduct of Jesus’ followers? What fruit do you believe you need to work on the most in your life?

### **Prayer Requests**

One of the most significant ways we grow spiritually together is to pray for one another each week. Use this section to write down the requests of those in your group so you can remember to pray for them throughout the week. Remember: *what is shared in your group should stay in your group.*

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