

Family Faith Discussion Questions
For Sunday June 26, 2022

Whether you worship with us online or in-person, you may find these questions helpful in starting meaningful faith discussions at home.

Scripture: Galatians 5: 1, 13-25

Helpful Background:

Paul wrote the Letter to the Galatians roughly 20 years after the crucifixion and was writing to followers of Christ whom he had converted. The group of churches in Galatia were experiencing an extreme crisis of faith because a new group of unnamed Christians had visited and contradicted much of what Paul had taught them about what following Jesus meant. These Christians had worshiped pagan Gods prior to converting because of Paul's teachings of the way of following Jesus Christ. The region of Galatia was most likely what is modern day Turkey.

When discussing and wondering about these passages with young children, it may be necessary to explain that the word fruit is being used to describe the result of actions, *you know, when something "bares fruit" that isn't a fruit tree*. What good thing comes from the Spirit, or our work to follow the Spirit's guidance?

Questions:

- Are you familiar with any part of this passage? Have you heard it before?

The verses 22-25 may be familiar to you. These passages describe the "Fruits of the Spirit" which is often a passage taught to children.

- Our first verse begins by referencing freedom and slavery. This topic is continued in verse 13. For modern Christians there is a lot of baggage connected to these words. What do you think Paul is trying to say from this verse? Why do you think Paul would use this imagery?

While the American context of slavery will absolutely affect our understanding of the words freedom and slavery, it is important to remember that the meaning of the concept of Slavery was somewhat different at the time this letter was written. Slaves in the 1st century AD were treated as property, being sold and bought by other, but were still treated as humans, as full people. There were no divisions of slavery based on skin color, or denying humanity to those who looked a certain way. Of course, civilization has always struggled with accepting those who look different than those with power, but what happened in the USA regarding separation of races and using political power to dehumanize and enslave those of a certain race or color was not the kind of slavery which existed in the 1st century AD.

- Verses 19-21 can be challenging verses to discuss with young children and they do create questions for all ages connected to context and terminology. Paul uses these verses to describe the "works of the flesh" so that he might contrast them to the "works of the Spirit" in verses 22-25. These verses do use large words that many young children might not be familiar with, so, **How would you summarize this list Paul gives as works of the flesh?** *He clearly means something negative, these are all traits or actions typically considered wrong, bad, faults or flaws, and some are even considered crimes in certain or all contexts.* What do you think Paul is trying to warn Christians about with this list?
- Verses 22-25 list the Fruits of the Spirit. Can you or a member of your family name all the fruits of the Spirit from memory? Which "fruit" is the easiest for you to create in your life? Which is the hardest?
- How may your life change if you focused on striving towards these fruits each day? What will make it difficult to do this? How can you ask God for help?