



WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK TWO

In the letter to the Galatians we read this, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control." Each day we will continue to pray together that the fruit of the Spirit might grow out of us. If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then prayer this prayer together:

God, your Spirit is with us even when we fail to notice. In this season may we pay more attention to the life of the Spirit. We look for the fruit of a life empowered by your Spirit. Give us life and may it bear good fruit for your purpose. Today I look to cultivate love, joy, peace and patience. Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: GALATIANS 5.22

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

- This week we focus on kindness, goodness, and faithfulness. These fruit are particularly connected to the character of God. The image of fruit is helpful as we remember that we do not produce the fruit, but we position ourselves for the fruit to have an impact in the world around us. Only God produces the fruit, but only we live it out.
- *Pray for a desire to have the good fruit of the Holy Spirit to come alive in you. Pray for kindness, goodness, and faithfulness.*

TUESDAY: ISAIAH 54.8

And God says, "In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you," says the Lord your Redeemer.

- How does this language about the anger of God resonate with you? God can be both angry and kind at the same time. Can you? God's ability to hold anger and kindness in tension is the recipe for our redemption!
- *Pray that your own anger may be tempered with kindness as you navigate your way through this complex world.*

WEDNESDAY: ISAIAH 54.10

Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed." Says the Lord who has compassion on you.

- Even though your world might seem to be falling down around you, God's love for you is not diminished. There are times in our lives when God's love is easier to see than others, but this promise through the prophet Isaiah speaks to the faithfulness of God at all times.
- *Pray for the assurance of God's faithfulness when your world seems to be crumbling.*

THURSDAY: TITUS 3.4-7

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

- The kindness, goodness, and faithfulness of God is what saves us. It's our only hope. The writer of Titus tells us that we are saved through the washing of the Holy Spirit poured out by God through Jesus. Has your current situation caused you to place your hope in someone or something other than God?
- *Pray for a fresh washing of the Spirit upon you today, look to Jesus in whatever trouble you are facing.*

FRIDAY: EPHESIANS 2.6-7

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

- Have you ever felt that there must be an end to God's kindness—that surely, He is finished with you after your most recent failure? God's kindness extends on into eternity. God's kindness ushers all the way to a seat with Jesus in the Kingdom of God, so that God can show us more of His kindness towards us.
- *Pray that you will not tire of seeing God's kindness.*

SATURDAY: JOHN 13.35

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- Just as kindness, goodness, and faithfulness, are characteristics of God, so are they evidence of the Spirit working within us. How will the world be impacted by the indwelling of God's Spirit in you? They will see your love. They will see God's love through you.
 - *Pray for evidence of God's love to pour out of you. Pray that the love you show others would point them to Jesus.*
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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- Jesus said we will be known by our fruit (not our accomplishments or treasures we store up on earth). Identify people whom you know by their good fruit. Are there some examples of those who are known by rotten fruit? Do you think about how others will see the fruit of the Spirit in your life?
- Only God can produce fruit, and only we can take in and make known the fruit He grows in us through the Spirit. What are the cultivating practices that are most beneficial to revealing the fruit that God is growing in you?