

Healing Our Broken World.

Scripture and Background Information for June 06-12.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

The pandemic did not only cost people their jobs, drive them into poverty, but many also lost a beloved family member. Millions of people deal with anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Additionally, people are divided by their political convictions. God wants to bring peace into this mess, and He wants to use His people to deal with it! God wants to use His people to be at the front lines of serving and healing. To see God's mission, we will look at **Galatians 5:13-26** this week.

Background for Galatians 5:13-26:

Paul wrote the letter to the churches in Galatia. In Galatia, we see that many different people became believers in Jesus Christ. We have Jewish Christians, as well as Christians from different nations. The multiethnic nature of the early church brought challenges (Acts 15). In the letter to the Galatians, Paul addresses some challenges. He shows that some people tried to bring the believers away from the Gospel, back under the law (see also Acts 13-14). Paul tries to bring the Galatians back under the Gospel of Christ because they had left the pure teaching (Gal 1-2). Paul shows that since Jesus accomplished salvation, all people from all ethnic backgrounds can be part of God's family. More, God wants all nations to become part of his family (Gal 3-4). Now, in the last section of the letter, Paul shows us how God's new family acts through the Holy Spirit. Here, Paul shows that Christ transforms His people through the presence of His Spirit. Believers are people who the Holy Spirit leads to see God's mission. The Spirit empowers them to fulfill God's mission. And the Spirit indwells believers so that they can love God's mission.

Here are several insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. When Paul speaks about the old life, he calls it the *life under the flesh*. He contrasts the *life under the flesh* with the *new life under the Spirit*. What are the terms Paul uses to stop living under the old life? Why does Paul use such harsh terms to let go of the old life?
2. How does Paul contrast the two lifestyles, the *life under the flesh* vs. the *life under the Spirit*?
3. How does a Spirit-led life happen? Does it happen automatically, or what is necessary for it?

Note: Paul sees our Christian freedom as freedom with purpose! Christ made us free FOR a loving service on each other. For that, He empowers and indwells us with his Spirit to serve others with the same love he loved us!

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

June 13-19

2Timothy 1

June 20-26

2Timothy 2