

The Power to Live a New Life Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Describe one person who has made a significant impact on your personal growth.
2. Do you typically make decisions quickly or slowly? Explain.

Read the following passage: Romans 7:14 - 8:4.

The apostle Paul recognized that though the Law of Moses was a revelation of God's will for the Jewish people, the Law itself did not have the power to overcome the grip of sin. Only Christ's death and resurrection and the power of the Holy Spirit could do that. Paul contrasts the life of Jewish men and women under the (old) covenant of Moses and the new life available in God's Spirit this way:

4 So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. 5 For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. 6 But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

Romans 7:4-6

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What are some ways that the Scriptures indicate that the Holy Spirit is a personal being, not an impersonal force?
2. What are some ways men and women in our cultural context try to create change in their personal lives? Do you think any of these strategies are beneficial? Explain. What limitations do you see to these approaches?
3. Read John 3:1-8. How does Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus connect with Ezekiel's prophecy in Ezekiel 36:24-28? What does it mean to be born again? Why do we need to be born again?
4. Read Galatians 5:13-26. What are some of the metaphors the apostle Paul uses to describe life in the Spirit? What do these metaphors suggest about what living in the Spirit is like? How do we practically live in the Spirit?
5. Read Acts 1:4-8. Jesus told the disciples that they would receive the Holy Spirit so they could be his witnesses. What are some ways this might have differed from what most first-century Jews were expecting regarding the kingdom of God? What does

this teach us about how we should engage the world?

6. Do you feel like you are living by the Spirit? Explain.
7. What is one way you would like to see your relationship with God's Spirit grow?

Pray