

Galatians 5

Galatians 5:16-6:2

Based on NLT

Introduction

Paul shared with the believers about what happens when we live by following God's Spirit*.*

Galatians 5:16-17

So I say, let *God's Spirit* guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful* nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

Galatians 5:19-21

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: *you commit all sorts of immoral and impure sins*. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not *have a relationship* with God*. (*be a part of God's kingdom*)

Galatians 5:22-23

But *God's Spirit* produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. *Religious laws don't even speak about these things, because God's Spirit is above those laws!*

Galatians 5:24-26

Those who belong to *the Savior** Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and *killed* them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, *let's* follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. *Don't* become

conceited, or *think about yourself more than others*, or be jealous of one another.

Galatians 6:1-2

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are *guided by God's Spirit* should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of *Jesus*.

Example crafted story (transcribed from a told story)

If you remember, in our last story Paul and Peter were in Asia and Paul confronted Peter and spoke to him very clearly about the good news about Jesus. We know about those things because Paul put them in a letter that he wrote to all the believers in Asia.

In the letter he talked about how our old lives were nailed to the cross, and how we lived a new life because Jesus lived in us. He was talking about God's Spirit living in us new believers.

He continued to write to those believers in Asia, telling them, "You should let God's Spirit guide your life. You see, the old passions---desires we had before we knew Jesus---they were also nailed to the cross with Jesus. We used to do evil things, but now if you follow God's Spirit you do good things, and people can see the joy and love that you have. They'll see a peaceful life that's good and gentle.

There may be some people---some believers---who don't allow God's Spirit to control their lives. They may be overcome by some sin.

You---you who are allowing God's Spirit to live in you and showing the fruit of what that's like---you should very gently and humbly bring that person back to the right path. As fellow believers, we should share each other's burden and point them to Jesus.

Why This Story?

This story is part of a long-term discipleship set taken from Luke, Acts, and the Epistles, but can be told as part of any advanced or in-depth discipleship program. The Epistles stories are best understood when the audience is familiar with its corresponding story from Acts, and any previous stories from the same Epistle.

This story describes what happens in a person's life when they live in God's Spirit.

Story Crafting

We've chosen to use the word **cross** in this story, as that seems the least awkward. However, if your audience does not understand the term **cross**, you may have to describe it as *two planks of wood*.

You may want to use a different way of describe what the human nature does. It may be best to unpack this a bit and say something like, "People are sinful, so they do evil..."

You may choose to say **have a relationship with God**, or **be a part of God's kingdom**, depending on what the theme of the rest of your story set is.

Being a part of God's kingdom also implies having a good relationship with God, so both phrases are interchangeable.

If producing **fruit** is not a natural way in your language to describe the *fruits of the spirit*, you may choose to describe it differently, such as *But God's Spirit produces these kinds of characteristics....*

It is very difficult for people to remember a list of *fruits of the spirit*. In our crafted story, we described some good characteristics of people who live guided by the Spirit, rather than list them.

Words/Phrases to

Consider

Believers*

These words may be interchangeable in these stories. **Follower/believer** denotes a person who has chosen to believe in and follow Jesus exclusively. We have chosen to not use a word such as *Christian*, which may have unwanted connotations in certain cultures, and may even be understood wrongly. In some South Asian cultures, **believer** may refer to a person who worships outside of the "traditional," historical church.

God's Spirit*

The Hebrew *ruach* [spirit] can have the physical meanings 'wind' or 'breath.' It also can mean 'power' or 'authority' that God gives to someone to do extraordinary things. The concept of 'holy' refers to people or things that belong to God, are consecrated to him, or are like him. Often, however, Scripture translations use 'God's Spirit' because many languages do not have a

word for ‘holy’ that adequately expresses the concept.

Sin*

Sin refers to an act of disobedience to God. Be sure that the word you use here does not mean that someone has failed to perform a religious act (i.e. alms, ritual prayer, following religious dietary rules, etc.). If necessary, you can use ‘disobedience.’

Relationship*

Some languages may not have one term for ‘relationship,’ or the term has unwanted connotations. Some languages express the idea in terms of action. TEV translates Genesis 15:6 as ‘Abram put his trust in the LORD, and because of this the LORD was pleased with him and accepted him.’

Savior*

‘Savior,’ as used in the New Testament, means ‘one who saves from spiritual and eternal danger.’ Often, the wholeness of man includes both physical and spiritual aspects which are difficult to distinguish, but the actual term ‘savior’ in the New Testament is used only for Jesus as a spiritual deliverer. Some languages do not have an appropriate personal noun that expresses the idea of savior, and it needs to be translated ‘the one Who saves,’ or ‘the saving person.’

Worldview

Remember that a culture may have a different “list” of **immoral and impure sins** than you are expecting. If needed, you may list some biblical sins.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same terms for **believers, God’s Spirit, sin, relationship, savior** that you have been using throughout the story set.

This story is best understood if the audience is familiar with the Galatians 2 story.

Story Set Themes

Epistles

Relationship

God’s Spirit