

# CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

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– COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE –

## Galatians Series: *Free in Christ* “Life in the Spirit” - Galatians 5:22-23

### FELLOWSHIP

This week we revisit the fruit of the Spirit passage from Galatians 5. Pastor Brian’s message was kind of the capstone application to several weeks of pouring over the believers choice to either be under the sway of the flesh or the relational leadership of God’s Spirit. Thank God that our groups give us a place to process these truths and encourage each other in our own unique set of life circumstances. We have all read the same verses, but how awesome to hear all of the special ways God is working out his promises in our personal experiences. I believe that we are more apt to apply and live out God’s calling for us in Christ when we share the journey together. Learning how to **love** like Jesus means learning how to **love** with intention towards others. Left to himself, humanity will instinctively seek first to fulfill his own wants, but the follower of Christ has had a spiritual reorientation. We now, like him, can care for our neighbor. “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love** for one another.” (John 13:35)

### PRAY, READ, DISCUSS

Read **Galatians 5:22-23** out loud together as a refresher, but then read **1 Corinthians 13**, especially focusing in on verses 4-8a, “**Love** suffers long and is kind; **love** does not envy; **love** does not parade itself, **love** is not puffed up; **love** does not behave rudely, **love** does not seek its own, **love** is not provoked, **love** thinks no evil; **love** does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; **love** bears all things, **love** believes all things, **love** hopes all things, **love** endures all things. **Love** never fails.”

- John says explicitly in his first epistle that, “God is **love**.” (4.8, 16) Read out loud again 1 Cor 13:4-8a, except this time replace the word “**love**” with Jesus. Where are some places in the Gospels where you see the Lord’s character reflected in his personal interactions with people or what he taught? When or what were some personal experiences you may have had where God’s nature of love ministered to you?
- The church is made up of lots of different kinds of people. How is it that we all get along? What is the unifying thing that not only keeps us together, but actually serving each other? For some organizations it is the rules, or who is strongest, or the ballot box. But how does the body of Christ cooperate? Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 if you need some help.
- Read 1 Cor. 13:4-8a out loud again. And if you’re brave, substitute your name in the passage for the word **love**. How are you doing? The list can now seem pretty daunting. Now read out loud together 2 Corinthians 3:18, “*So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.*” We won’t be perfect this side of heaven, but how has God been changing you? Where have you seen his character start to show in your relationships?
- Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control describe attitudes toward others. They describe intentions that forget to first estimate the worth of the other person. Share an experience where you have seen a person more open to the Gospel because of an act of kindness? What would be some simple ways to show goodness to someone specific in your neighborhood?

### PRAY

This next week we celebrate the most important act of **love** in the history of man. Let’s pray together about who we could invite to the amphitheater on Friday or Easter morning to church.

