



## Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide Spirit Blockers – Part 3 LEADER GUIDE

**SMALL GROUP LEADERS: Small Group Connect (formerly Group Link) is coming to every campus in August.**

- Please be in prayer for new people to connect to community.
  - Please pray for new leaders to start new groups!
  - Please keep your eyes open for who you can help connect to a group, even if it's someone else's group!
  - ***Please help us connect the disconnected!***
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### **Ice Breaker: Choose one to answer in your group**

- a) Who is one person you would like to meet and spend time with and why?
- b) Have you ever forgotten a birthday, anniversary, or other important day? Tell the story.

### **Into the Word:**

**Read Galatians 5:16-25**

- a) What is significant about Paul calling the Christian life a "walk" (v. 15) and the Spirit as someone we actually "live" by (v. 25)?

*Teaching Tip: Allow for a variety of responses to this question. Answers could include: that Christianity is a relationship; the Holy Spirit is not merely an occasional experience but an ongoing real Presence; the strength to live or walk comes from God, not ourselves; etc.*

- b) How would you explain what it means to walk by the Spirit or keep in step with the Spirit or live by the Spirit?

*Teaching Tip: Paul answers this question by way of contrast. He contrasts life by the Spirit with life by the "flesh." Encourage your group to answer what walking by the Spirit is not.*

- c) When Paul says in v. 18 that if you are led by the Spirit then you are not under the Law, what does he mean? Can Christ-followers violate God's commands or do whatever they want?

*Teaching Tip: Paul is emphasizing the relationship and the real Presence of God in our lives. The Law shows us our need for a Savior, shows us the holiness and purity of God, and also protects us from the deceit of sin.*

### **Apply the Word:**

- a) How has your understanding of the Holy Spirit changed through this series? Who is the Holy Spirit to you?

b) How might you be quenching the Holy Spirit in your life?

Teaching Tip: *It might be helpful to review the definition of quenching from the sermon.*

c) Let's review 4 of the 5 steps from the sermon about how we can experience God's presence in our life. As we review them, ask 1-2 people in your group to share what taking this step might look like in their life.

From the Sermon:

- 1) Deal with our will (our ego, our independence from God, etc)
- 2) Know the world's false claims (deceptive promises and patterns it offers to us)
- 3) Re-see the world (as God's theatre; every moment ripe with expectancy).
- 4) Re-envision spiritual disciplines (as paths to God, not a box to check).

d) Share a situation and the particular promise you are trusting with the STEP process Matt shared. *(It might be helpful to do this in groups of 3-4).*

Sermon Review: S.T.E.P.

SPIRIT: the Spirit is present with me in this situation

TRUST: I am trusting this specific promise from God's Word

EMPOWER: I will act according to this promise; obey this promise in faith

PRAISE/PARDON: I will praise God for what comes and ask for His pardon for my sins

**Prayer Time:** Consider one of the following

1) Pray for each other based on the situations shared above

2) In the sermon, Matt shared his prayer that we as Christ-followers would come to weekly worship with a desire to meet with God (vs. hear a sermon, sing a song, etc).

- Spend time in prayer asking God to give us a stronger desire for Him.
- Repent of how you have approached weekly worship or Bible reading or prayer (as something other than a path to sense God more)

**ALSO, Please join us in prayer as a church for these things:**

- For us to pursue the Holy Spirit and desire more of God, removing any obstacles.
- For families to prioritize Jesus as we go back to school.
- For us to prioritize evangelism, and sharing the love of Jesus with others.