



## **Bearing Fruit: “A Spirit-Filled Life”**

*Galatians 5:13-23, You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. 14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. 16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

1. Why do you think so many New Year’s resolutions people make are unsuccessful? Is there anything in your life that you’ve tried to change that you have found difficult to change?
2. Read Galatians 5:13-23 above. In what ways have you seen “obedience to the law” come in line with “walking by the Spirit”? (not just in the text but also in your real life experience) In what ways have you seen these two things at odds with one another?
3. How do you see the connection between the fruit of the spirit, the character of Jesus and our created purpose as image-bearers of God? How does your experience as a parent or a child impact your understanding of this?