
GOD'S SPIRIT RENEWS

SERIES: STAND FIRM

Join us throughout the month of July as we learn what it means to **STAND FIRM** in our faith! We will be going through the books of Galatians, Philippians, and 1 & 2 Thessalonians.

REMEMBER VERSE

2 CORINTHIANS 5:5—Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

SCHEDULE

All Services

0:00—0:10	Welcome/Check-In
0:10—0:15	Transition to Large Group
0:15—0:30	Large Group (B100)
0:30—0:35	Transition to Small Group
0:35—1:05	Small Group (Lesson/Activity/Respond)
1:05—1:15	Dismiss

NOTES

LEADER RESOURCES

SERIES OVERVIEW

CURRENT WEEK: God's Spirit Renews

Fruit of the Spirit & Galatia

WEEK 2: God is Contentment

Letter to the Philippians

WEEK 3: God is Hope

Letters to Thessalonians

EQUIP

Paul's argument in the book of Galatians revolves around whether or not Gentiles can be accepted into the family of God without first becoming Jews. The question: Must Gentiles adopt the identity markers of Israel (circumcision, dietary laws, etc.) to be considered children of Abraham? Or is there now (post-Pentecost) a new way of identifying the people of God?

Paul argues that to try to become related to the family of God through the law of Moses now, after the era of the Law has passed, and after Messiah has come and instituted a new era (the new covenant), would be foolish.

Paul says that if you still believe that you must do outward, fleshly things to be accounted a part of the family of God, you're still living in the era of the flesh, and, as such, your actions will be fleshly. You will exhibit the deeds that the flesh motivates—sexual immorality, idolatry, hatred, and more (Galatians 5:19-21). If, however, you recognize that as a believer in Jesus, you're now motivated and empowered by the Holy Spirit for Spirit-like living, then your actions will flow from that reality and you'll produce the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, and more (5:22-23). In other words, the character of life under the control of the Spirit will reflect the loving kind of life the heart of the Law pointed to, but was unable to produce.

The apostle urges the Galatians to consider what kinds of lives they want to lead. Do they want fleshly lives, with the resulting fleshly fruits? Or do they want Spirit-filled lives, with the resulting fruit of the Spirit? The new creation has dawned, not only within time, but within you (2 Corinthians 5:17)—so live in the new creation according to the rules that the new creation brings.

ENCOURAGE

Many of us may struggle to understand the freedom we have in Christ. So did many of the Jews who came to believe in Jesus. These new believers thought that keeping every jot and tittle of the law showed other people the validity of their faith. They didn't understand that the law, which prompted external obedience, could never produce true godly living. But the Messiah brought His believers the Holy Spirit, who lives inside us and gives us the internal motivation to live lives pleasing to God.

This week, set aside some time to spend with God. Pray Psalm 25:4-5, and then read Galatians 5—6 and Acts 15:1-35. As you read, write down any new insights the Lord reveals to you. Afterward, if you feel led, pray this prayer: "Father, help me to understand what it means to be renewed by Your Holy Spirit. Correct my course and place me on Your path. Show the children that the Holy Spirit has given them all they need to be able to please You. Grow in us the desire to yield to Your Spirit. Amen."

WELCOME

Some fun ideas to welcome kids as they check-in to your room at the beginning of service.

Invite the kids to color on the provided coloring page or work on the provided activity page.

As kids arrive, feel free to ask them this week's Connect Question. Feel free to write the question on the board and encourage some fun dialogue before you start your lesson.

QUESTION: If you could invent a new fruit, what would it be?

RESPOND

A chance for kids to respond to what God is putting on their hearts through creative expression.

When Jesus died on the cross, He paid for your sins. Because He rose again, you can have new life in Him. God has set you free and sent His Spirit to renew you. You can trust Him to grow spiritual fruit in your life.

INSTRUCTIONS: Hand each child a God's Spirit Renews Template. Have them add large flower petals to the circle in the center, as well as a stem connecting it to the pot with leaves. In each petal/leaf, have them write one of the fruits of the Spirit until they have written all of them. Encourage them to color it and remind them that God's Spirit helps them grow.

SUPPLIES:

- God's Spirit Renews Template
- Coloring Supplies

REFLECT

A chance to reflect on what kids have just learned about The Big God Story.

God's Spirit renews our hearts and gives us power to love others. We can ask Him to help us change and learn how to show love, gentleness, and kindness.

- Why did Paul write to the Galatians? *Galatians 1:6-7*
- How can we be set free from sin? *Romans 8:2*
- How does God desire for us to use our freedom? *Galatians 5:13-14*
- How do we sometimes try to "fix ourselves"? *Galatians 3:3*
- How does the Holy Spirit renew us? *Galatians 2:19-20*
- What does it mean to be renewed? *Colossians 3:7-10*
- What keeps us from growing spiritual fruit? *Galatians 6:7-8*
- Has God renewed something you struggled with in your life? Tell us about it.

BLESS

A powerful way to bless the kids and parents by sending them off with a benediction.

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the parents into your room at the end of the service to say one last prayer together with the whole family. Instruct them to find their child and sit/stand by their side. Explain what their child learned today and read the verse below. Pray together and then dismiss.

TITUS 3:4-5 – But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

BLESSING: May God's Spirit renew you as He grows His spiritual fruit in you. May the fruit He produces show others His great power.

NOTES

This script serves as an outline of what your storytelling might sound like. Items written in italics are cues for the storyteller and are not meant to be read out loud. You are fully encouraged to make it your own and add a personal touch.

The script serves as an example, however if you would like to teach based on the script and are in need of any supplies mentioned, we would be happy to supply those for you! Storytelling images mentioned will always be provided in your basket each week, but if you need any other supplies for your lesson, contact a Grove KIDS Staff member beforehand so we can supply it for you! You are also welcome to bring in your own props if you would like!

STORYTELLING

What's the best news you've heard lately? *Invite children to share.* God's wonderful message about how Jesus came to die for our sins was spread all over the world after the book of Acts in The Big God Story! Many people became Christians and began to follow the way of Jesus. With the power of His Holy Spirit renewing them, they were able to begin to live for Him! Let's take a minute to thank God for giving us the gift of Jesus and sending His Holy Spirit to live in us. *Lead the children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.*

Does anyone know who Paul was? *Invite responses.* Exactly! Paul was a man who became a believer in Jesus—He changed his whole life. Paul traveled all around telling people about Jesus. He started churches in the areas he visited, and then he would leave them to run on their own. But Paul would often check in with the new churches to see how they were doing. If they had started believing things that weren't true, Paul would write letters to help the churches remember God's truth and that God's Spirit renews—or changes us. Where do we have these letters now? *Invite responses.* That's right—in the New Testament! Many of Paul's letters became a part of the Bible. Well, the churches in Galatia had started believing things that weren't true. They forgot about the freedom God offers and that His Spirit makes us new. So Paul wrote a letter to the Christians in Galatia to remind them about how to follow God. *Invite kids to turn to Galatians 5 in their Bibles and follow along.*

Paul found out that some Jewish leaders were telling the Galatians that they still needed to follow the Jewish law in order to be considered a part of the family of God. *Read Galatians 5:1 aloud.* Before Jesus came, the Galatians had shown other people that they loved God by offering sacrifices, eating certain foods, and dressing in a certain way. Then Jesus came and changed everything! Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of those who trust in Him. The Holy Spirit changes our hearts from the inside and helps us to want to obey God. We're free from sin and the law and free to obey God!

Paul reminded the Christians that they'd been running a good race. That means they were following Jesus without stopping. But then false teachers came in, and they started to believe things that weren't true. Paul also

RESOURCES PROVIDED

- None

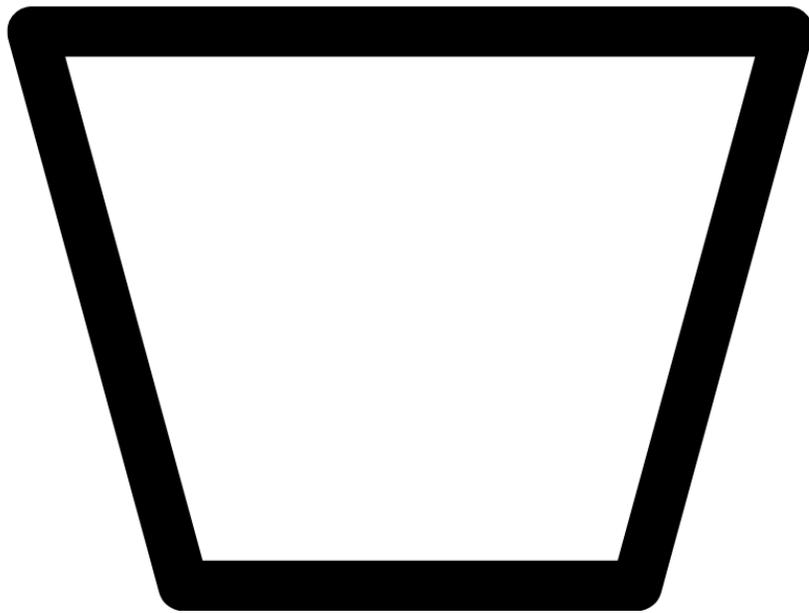
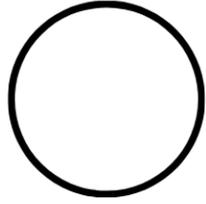
reminded the Christians that even though they were free, they shouldn't do whatever they wanted all the time. They should use the freedom that God gives us to love one another. *Read Galatians 5:13-14 aloud.* When is it easy to love each other? *Invite kids to respond.* And when is it hard to love others? *Pause for responses.* Good thoughts. It isn't always easy to love those around us. But when we become Christians, God sends His Holy Spirit to live in us. His Spirit comes and renews us or makes us new. Through the power of His Holy Spirit, we can love those around us!

When we live by God's Spirit, He also produces good fruit in us. The fruit He brings into our lives isn't the kind we eat! The fruit of God's Spirit is what happens in our lives when we follow Him. *Read Galatians 5:22-23 aloud.* God's Spirit renews us and brings these things into our lives. When we show patience, when we love each other, and when we're kind to each other, these are all the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Paul then reminded the Christians in Galatia that they could help one another. If one of them sinned, they could point out the sin and help that person do what was right. Every person should do what God asked of them and not compare themselves to others. Paul reminded them they could do all these things because God's Spirit renews.

Read Galatians 6:9-10 aloud. Paul encouraged everyone to do good to one another because that's what pleases God. Paul finished his letter by reminding the Galatians that they didn't need to follow the law of Moses to show they were members of God's family. God had given them the free gift of salvation and made them new through His Spirit.

Paul signed the letter with his own writing and a blessing from God. *Read Galatians 6:18 aloud.* Paul had to write to the Galatians because they had listened to false teachers and forgotten that God had set them free. They needed to be reminded that God's Spirit had renewed them and changed them. God does the same for us today. When we become Christians, God changes our hearts and sends His Spirit to help us live for Him. We can always turn to God and ask Him to renew us and help us love one another! *Share about a time when you were able to love those around you through the power of the Holy Spirit in your life.*



GOD'S SPIRIT RENEWS AND HELPS ME GROW