

# The Fruit of the Spirit studies **LOVE**

**Key verse:** Galatians 5:25.

... and whoever wants to be first must be slave  
Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step  
with the Spirit.



**Big Idea:** Seeing the fruit of the Spirit as  
Christian '**performance indicators**' gives us  
a tangible way of assessing our progress in  
Christian living.

## Kick Off

Australian Christians have been accused of ignoring the work of the Holy Spirit. It has been said of us that we have a functional trinity consisting of, the Father, the Son and the Holy Bible. Do you agree or disagree?

*We are starting off a short series looking at the fruit of the Spirit. Although there will be a main passage each week we will also be going to other places to get a bigger biblical picture. Keep this in mind as you work through this series together.*

## STUDY

### Read Galatians 5:16-26.

1. What can you say about the relationship between the Spirit and the sinful nature, vv16-18?
2. What attitude are we as Christians to take in relation to:
  - The sinful nature?
  - The Spirit?
3. Christianity is a battle of the heart. Verses 19 and 22 detail in striking contrast the different external expressions of behaviour that are the result of being driven internally, at the heart level, by either the sinful nature or the Spirit.

What means does our society resort to in attempting to control the sinful nature?

Why are the actions of 'Spirit led' people not subject to law?

4. Since we are made alive by the Spirit why do we still struggle with sin?

5. How does the term 'the fruit of the Spirit' help us understand the relationship between our work and God's work, in making progress as Christians.

What can we do to produce fruit? cf, Mark 4:26-29.

What does God do to produce fruit? Gal. 2:20

6. What is the key difference between a fruitful Christian and an unfruitful one? cf, John 15:1-4.

7. If someone is walking by the Spirit, what positive effects would you expect to see in the way they treat others vv25,6? Is this true for you?

8. The first fruit of the Spirit is LOVE. Why is this so appropriate in the light of these passages?  
1 John 4:7-12 and Romans 5:5.

## THINK AND APPLY

How is love a verb?

The bible says we are to love our family our neighbours and our enemies. Which group is hardest for you to love and why?

How is John 3:16 the foundational motivation for us to love others?

## PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week  
Read  
1 Thessalonians  
5:16**