



DISCUSSION NOTES

Connect Members to Each Other

1. If you make New Year's resolutions, what is yours for 2021?
2. A popular custom lately is to choose a word to focus on in the new year. If you have a word in mind, share it with your group.
3. Pastor Jim notes in his message that there are three common responses to struggle. What are the three responses?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. Which response do you think you display the most often?

Connect Members to God

1. Struggle and hardship are part of life. As Jesus states in John 16:33, "In this world you will have trouble." Do you look at the problems in your life as burdens to overcome or opportunities for growth?
2. Sometimes our struggles feel like too much to bear. When this happens, what can you do to "struggle well"? When is it time to seek the help of a professional?

Read Galatians 5:22-23a: *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

3. Which of these "fruits of the Spirit" do you find the easiest to display towards others?
4. Which one do you find the most challenging?

Connect with Life

Let's demonstrate the fruits of the Spirit in our community! Challenge yourself to do two random acts of kindness for strangers and consider supporting local businesses in your neighborhood (suggestions below).

1. Share a good book.
2. Buy coffee for the person waiting behind you at the local coffee shop.

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