

## **Sunday 2 June**

### **Sermon: Being Led by the Spirit (Galatians 5.13-26)**

#### **Small Group Questions**

Some possible questions:

1. Name one thing (each) that struck you from Phillip's sermon.
2. Think about the two "tracks" Phillip talked about for getting from Egypt to Canaan: one a well travelled highway and a direct route; the other a long and meandering trail through inhospitable desert. What do these two routes represent for the Christian?
  - Leaders' hint: one is the normal path in life, that we all know because everyone lives like that; the other is a trail marked out by God for us, that we otherwise would not find, designed by God for our spiritual formation.
3. Why is it necessary for the Spirit of God to lead us, when it comes to dealing with sin in our lives?
  - Leaders' hints: Possible answers: (i) because we typically don't know the way out of our sin, only God does; (ii) because we would not choose to walk that way if it were up to us; (iii) because if we don't allow the Spirit to lead us in important life decisions, then the desires of sinful nature will tend to carry the day.
4. Phillip spoke about "ordinary" parts of our lives, issues neither right nor wrong, where we may feel we have the right to do fairly much as we see best. Name some of those "ordinary" parts to our lives.
5. What is the danger of leaving God out of the decision making in these important areas of our lives?
6. How do we come to a place of conviction regarding the sufficiency of the Spirit's power to overcome sin and form Christ in us?
  - Leaders' hint: this must be a simple decision of the will to accept the clear teaching of the Scriptures.
7. Why is personal autonomy so important to us in the West?
8. What makes it possible to hand over the tiller of our lives to God?
  - Leaders' hint: we have to be absolutely convinced that God has our best interests at heart; we must be certain of His love. This is why the cross (remembered, celebrated and proclaimed) reassures us of: here God's love is on full display.
9. Read the following quote, which is a pastoral reflection on Galatians 5, and ask for comments:

"The way to overcome undisciplined fleshly passion is not to focus on the passion in hopes of mastering or suppressing it, but rather to live a life dominated by trusting in God, recognising one's new master in place of one's old one" (Keener).

10. Read the following as a closing encouragement:

To be led by the Spirit of God is what is sorely needed. You must realise that God has given his Son Jesus Christ to watch over you every day and your job is to trust. The

work of the Holy Spirit is to enable you every moment to remember Jesus and to trust Him completely. *The Spirit has come to keep the link with him unbroken.* Praise God for the Holy Spirit! We are so accustomed to thinking that the third person of the Trinity is a luxury, someone for special times or for special ministers with special talents. The Holy Spirit is necessary for every believer, every moment of the day. Praise God that you have Him, that he gives you the full experience of the deliverance in Christ as he sets you free from the power of sin. (A Murray, *Absolute Surrender*)