

The Gospel Project for Adults, Spring 2018
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Session 9

Introduction: *Contrast heart change with behavior modification.*

Ask your group members the following set of questions: “Have you ever had a pet with a behavior you wanted to change? Could you change it? How?” Follow that up with, “Have you ever had a child with a behavior you wanted to change? Were you able to change that? How?”

Then end the opening discussion questions with this series: “Have you ever known an adult whose behavior you wanted to change? Were you able to change it? How?”

Engage learners in discussing the difference in changing the behavior of a pet, a child, and an adult. Consider reading all or some of the following article, “Behavior Modification—Does It Work?” from family psychologist John Rosemond: <https://www.arcamax.com/homeandleisure/parents/s-968918>

Read aloud the Session Summary (page 119 in the Leader Guide), pointing out that today’s lesson gives a hard look not at the heart change not of only for others but especially of ourselves.

Point 1: *Define the phrase for further reflection.*

After discussing what it means to walk by the Spirit, consider the definition on page 120 of the Leader Guide: “To walk by the Spirit ... is to follow Him or to move in the direction He indicates. When we walk by the Spirit, we go where He goes, or more precisely, we live how He directs us to live.”

Encourage learners to put this definition in their own words and speak aloud what it means to walk by the Spirit.

Ask your group member the following questions: “Whom do you walk like? How can we know if we are walking in (or following after) the Spirit?”

Point 3: *Describe the difference between doing and being.*

Read aloud the excerpt from page 123 in the Leader Guide:

Doing flows from *being*. Behavior problems are ultimately belief problems. Who or what you believe yourself to be will direct how you live. So to be

crucified with Christ means to put away our fleshly passions and desires and to follow the Spirit.

Ask, “When have you found yourself *doing* something that surprised you? What did that reveal about who you really were?”

Read aloud to the group this brief Chuck Swindoll article “The Difference Between Doing and Being”:

<http://www.gospel.com/blog/index.php/2010/02/03/todays-devotional-the-difference-between-doing-and-being/>

Conclusion: *Instill the concept of “grace alone” through song.*

Encourage learners to write the words “grace alone” in a prominent place where they will see and think about this several times a day.

During the interval between this meeting and when your group meets again, send, via social media or email, a link to the song “Grace Alone” by Dustin Kensrue (from the album *The Water & the Blood*):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5K5YKYk3JcY>

Challenge learners to listen to it several times throughout the week, as it is a memorable way to recall the truths of Paul’s teaching in Galatians 5.

Teaching Tip of the Week

Be ready for learners to say things such as “But we also must...” and protest the teaching that grace alone is sufficient for salvation, even as they read these words of Paul. Seeking to take credit in some way for our salvation is inherent to sinful human nature.

Help learners understand that obedience is expected and that it is how we demonstrate our love for Jesus: “This is how we know that we love God’s children: when we love God and obey his commands. For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands” (1 John 5:2-3a). But this love comes *as a result* of God’s grace, not in order to receive it.