

Small group optional guide: Romans series: 'Led by the Spirit' Romans 8:12-17

UP; we grow in our love for Jesus through the word & worship

WORD: 'Led by the Spirit' Romans 8:12-17

Romans 8 continues the unfolding story of the gospel: freedom from condemnation leads to a new way of life empowered by the Holy Spirit. Because of Christ's work, believers are no longer bound to the old power of sin but are invited into a Spirit-led life marked by freedom, identity, and hope.

Paul begins with a reminder that believers are no longer obligated to live under the rule of the flesh: *"So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh."* (Romans 8:12)

Through Jesus' death and resurrection, the debt of sin has been fully paid. The old slavery has been broken. Because of this freedom, believers now have a new responsibility: to live by the power of the Spirit. *"For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."* (Romans 8:13)

The Christian life involves an ongoing battle against sin, but it is not fought in human strength. Victory comes **"by the Spirit."** The Spirit empowers believers to turn away from destructive patterns and to grow into Christlikeness. The call is not passive; it is an active partnership with the Spirit in putting sin to death.

Paul then makes a powerful declaration about identity: *"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God."* (Romans 8:14)

Being led by the Spirit is a defining mark of belonging to God's family. The Spirit guides, prompts, and strengthens believers as they learn to walk in obedience. This leadership may involve stepping out in faith, taking risks for the kingdom, and trusting God even when the outcome is uncertain. The Spirit-filled life is not dull or stagnant—it is an ongoing adventure with God.

The heart of this passage is the profound truth of adoption: *"You did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'"* (Romans 8:15)

The gospel does more than forgive sin; it brings believers into God's family. Through the Spirit, God becomes "Abba, Father." This expression carries both intimacy and reverence. It reflects the closeness of a loving parent-child relationship while also acknowledging the Father's authority. Believers are not distant servants but deeply loved children who can approach God with trust and confidence.

The Spirit also gives assurance of this identity: *"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."* (Romans 8:16)

In moments of doubt, fear, or spiritual struggle, the Holy Spirit confirms....

(...continued) that believers truly belong to God. This inner testimony strengthens faith and anchors identity in God's love rather than performance.

Finally, Paul reveals the extraordinary future that flows from this new identity: *"And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ."* (Romans 8:17)

Belonging to God's family means sharing in Christ's inheritance. While the present journey may include suffering, it ultimately leads to glory. The path of following Jesus may involve hardship, sacrifice, and perseverance, but it is moving toward a certain and glorious future.

Key Themes for Reflection

- Freedom from sin leads to a new life led by the Spirit.
- The Spirit empowers believers to fight sin and grow in holiness.
- Followers of Jesus are adopted children who can call God "Abba, Father."
- The Spirit assures believers of their identity and belonging.
- As God's children, believers share in Christ's inheritance and future glory.

Discussion Questions

- 1) What does it look like practically to be "led by the Spirit" in everyday life?
- 2) How does understanding adoption into God's family change the way you approach Him?
- 3) Where might the Spirit be inviting you to step out in faith or obedience?

Worship songs from Sunday:

Behold the lamb of God / Who else / No longer slaves / Worthy

IN; we connect and learn to love one another

On Pray for one another, Ask the Holy Spirit for fresh filling, deeper assurance of the Father's love, and courage to follow wherever He leads.

Pray for each other to be led by the Spirit to have adventures in God.

OUT; we reach out to show people outside of JCC that God loves them

Jubilee for Women – JFW on Saturday; this is a brilliant way to connect with other women who are part of JCC but also an opportunity to invite friends and neighbours, to join for some creative fun and fellowship. Please go to our website calendar and sign up.



OUT; we reach out to show people outside of JCC that God loves them



Jubilee for Men - JFM

This is an opportunity for families and friends to come together and watch the match between England and Italy of The Six Nations Rugby Tournament. Doors will be open at 4pm and kick off is at 4:40pm. Burgers/Sausages will be served before the match starts. All ages welcome.

Please sign up for this event for £5 so that we can ensure we purchase sufficient food for everyone.

Both of these events would make for fantastic Small Group socials but also ways to invite your friends, neighbours and connections to come and experience our church without any stereotypical religious hurdles that may prevent someone from accepting your invitation.

Jubilee for Women - JFW

This is a brilliant way to connect with other women who are part of JCC but also an opportunity to invite friend and neighbours to join for some creative fun and fellowship.

The café will be open and there will be options of creative fun to choose from.

Please go to our website calendar, go the Featured events and sign up.

<u>CALENDAR</u>		CONTACT US	
7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JFM Six Nations BBQ 4:00pm	8	Pre Service Prayer 9:15am Sunday Service 10:00am <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joining JCC Course 10:15am Cluster leaders meeting 12:00pm
14	Men's Prayer 7:30am <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JFW Connect and Create 7:30pm	15	Pre Service Prayer 9:15am Sunday Mother's Day Service 10:00am Summer term courses sign up 10:00am