**Discussion Guide for Community Groups**

**Living for Jesus in a Secular World – Real Life**

**Icebreakers:**

1. Out of the following activities, which one would be your first choice and why? (Visit relatives during the holiday season; Go on a cruise with a number of stops at exotic destinations; Spend 3 days at Disney World; or Go camping at the National Park of my choice) (Do you have an activity that you would rather do than any of these choices?)
2. Do you think of your walk with Christ as 1) work, 2) fun, 3) duty, 4) inspiring, or 5) you fill in the blank?

**Read the following passage: Romans 8:1-6 (NKJV)** **1  *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2  For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3  For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4  that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.** **5  For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6  For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.**

**Background:** *Our scripture comes from the book of Romans. Romans is Paul’s longest epistle in the New Testament. In this particular passage of scripture Paul is trying to help the Romans understand the difference between walking in the Spirit and walking in the flesh. Paul makes it clear that for those who are in Christ Jesus there is no condemnation!*

**(Romans 8: 1,2) *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.**

1. Why is there no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus?
2. What is the advantage of walking in the Spirit as opposed to walking in the flesh?
3. How would you describe or define the following? (The law of the Spirit of Life) (The law of sin and death)

**(Romans 8: 3,4) For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

1. What is it that makes the flesh so weak?
2. What was the righteous requirement of the law?
3. Jesus stated that His purpose is coming to earth was to “give His life as a ransom for many;” what did He mean and how did He accomplish it?

**(Romans 8: 5,6) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.**

1. What is Paul talking about when he refers to “the flesh?”
2. What does it mean to “live according to the Spirit?”
3. How does walking in the Spirit lead to a life that is full of real life and peace?

**Wrap-up:** *This scripture could probably be used as a “works—righteousness” text, but trying to earn your salvation through good works is vastly different that walking according to the Spirit. How can we tell the difference between personal effort to be righteous and the work of the Holy Spirit bringing forth good fruit in our lives?*