

Small Group Discussion Guide

The Word Bears Fruit: For the week of January 30 - February 5, 2022

Main Thoughts and Scriptures:

God desires that all Christians bear the “fruit” of a disciple of Christ in their lives. Fruit in the Bible represents the life of Christ being lived out in us in every area of our lives. Our character, behavior, and love for others should reflect Christ. This can only happen when we “abide” in Him.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” (John 15:1-11 ESV)

We “bear fruit” when we truly “abide” in Christ. (v. 4-6)

- Just as a branch can only bear fruit if connected to the vine, we can only bear the “fruit” that God desires if we “abide” or live intimately connected to Christ.

We “abide” in Christ through His Word. (v. 9-10)

- As we have seen, God’s Word gives us life. Thus, we must live by His Word, thus abiding in Christ.

When we “abide...”

...God answers our prayers. (v. 7)

- Our prayers become more aligned to God's will and are powerful and effective.

*“...The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”
(James 5:16 NIV)*

...our lives bring glory to God. (v. 8)

- The goal of a disciple should be to bring glory to God with our lives. As we abide and bear the fruit of a disciple of Christ, God is glorified through us.

...our lives are filled with joy. (v. 11)

- Living according to God's Word will result in a life filled with joy, on earth and eternally in heaven.

Discussion Questions:

- As you reflect on the main thought, scriptures above, and the weekend sermon, what is the Lord highlighting to you and why?
- What “fruit” has come out of your life as you have “abided” in God's Word? How has He shaped you so far?
- What prayers do you need still answered, and how do you need Him to shape you going forward as you continue to “abide” in Christ through the Word?

Prayer:

- Pray for one another to “abide” in the Word and to experience the breakthroughs that come as we “abide.”
- Pray for one unreached friend or family member to come to know Christ through the “fruit” of your life this year.