

# Fruit (9/1/24)

## Discussion Questions

**Summary:** If we abide in Jesus, He promises we *will* bear much fruit. That fruit is both internal (“the fruit of the Spirit” Gal. 5:19-22) and external, the fruit of ministry impact in the world (“salt and light” Matt. 5:13-14). This Sunday (9/1) we focused on the internal fruit and next Sunday (9/8) the external fruit. As we abide in Jesus, we will love Jesus more and become more like Him. Let’s apply the five steps Jesus outlines to help us create an environment where that kind of fruit can grow!

*“I 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.”* John 15:5

### The Fruit of Change:

- **Loving** Jesus more (v. 5-6)
  - **Treasure** His teachings (v. 7; try Ps. 23)
  - Put God **First** (v. 8; Matt. 6:33)
  - **Experience** His love continually (v. 9)

*“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.”* John 15:9

- **Becoming** more like Jesus
  - **Obey** His commands (v. 10)
  - **Overflow** with love and joy (v. 11; John 10:10)

*“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”*  
John 15:11

### Get Started:

1. How much gardening do you do? What success have you had in growing things, if any?
2. Have you ever grown or cared for a fruit-bearing plant or tree? How much time and attention did it take?

### Dig In: Read John 15:5-11

3. What stands out to you in this passage?
4. What is the warning in v. 6 about?
5. What promises does Jesus make in this section? How do they encourage you?
6. Jesus connects love (v. 9) with obedience (v. 10) and joy (v. 11). Is there significance in the sequence of these?
7. Read v. 9 again. How does this invitation amaze you and move your heart?

**Move Forward:**

- How was your last week in terms of abiding in Christ? What helped you to make time for Him and to “practice the presence of God”? What “weeds” and “thorns” did you encounter?
- Read Galatians 5:22-23. If there was one “fruit of the Spirit” you could see grow more fully in your life this fall, what would it be? What habits might help you nourish that character trait?
- Pair up with an accountability partner (or triad) and make a plan to encourage one another throughout the week. Consider texting each other every day to share a Bible verse that spoke to you that day.
- Write John 15:5 and 9 on a note card and see if you can memorize them this week.
- Pray for each other to love Jesus more and become more and more like Him!