

**Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, February 9th, 2025**

Series: **“Growing in Christ”**

Message: **“Growing in Fruitfulness”**

Sermon Text: **John 15:1-12 (p. 1147)**; Old Testament Text: **Psalm 105:1-7 (p. 639)**; New Testament Text: **Colossians 1:9-14 (p. 1251)**.

Read **John 15:1-12** as you listen to the sermon, then answer the questions below.

1. Read **John 15:1**. What does Jesus call Himself in this verse?

Why would this be an especially meaningful name to a Jew?

What is a vinedresser, and who did Jesus say was the vinedresser?

2. Read **John 15:2**. Why would God prune someone from the Body of Christ who claimed to be connected to Jesus but bore no fruit?

How might God prune us to make us more fruitful?

3. Read **John 15:3**. A vinedresser would normally clean the leaves of a grapevine, especially those nearest to the ground. Why wouldn't God have to do that with Jesus's disciples?

4. Read **John 15:4-5**. What does it mean to *abide in Christ*?

Why is it impossible for us to produce fruit apart from Christ? (Explain using the vine and the branches symbolism Jesus used.)

5. Read **John 15:6**. What is Jesus saying will happen to people who don't stay connected to Him?

6. Read **John 15:7-8**. Why is God not afraid to answer the prayers of someone who abides in Christ?

How does our fruit prove we are Christ's disciples?

7. Read **John 15:9-10**. According to v. 9, how has Jesus loved us?

According to v. 10, what is the secret to abiding in Christ's love?

8. Read **John 15:11**. Why has Jesus shared this important information with us?

9. Read **John 15:12**. List some qualities of Jesus's love for us that should show through us when we love others *as He has loved us*?

10. What will you remember most from this lesson?

### Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Psalm 105:1-7** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. In **Ps. 105:1-2**, is the psalmist's command to *give thanks to the Lord* and to *sing praises to Him* solely for God's glorification? How might such actions help us to grow in our love and adoration of the Lord?
  2. Name two positive things that might happen if *we made known God's deeds among the peoples* and if *we told of all His wondrous works*.
  3. In **Ps. 105:3-4**, what does it mean to *Glory in His holy name*? Why would *the hearts of those who seek the Lord be able to rejoice*? How often are we to be *seeking the presence of the Lord*?
  4. How would doing what **Ps. 105:5** commands strengthen our faith?
  5. Does **Ps. 105:6** apply to us? Why or why not?
  6. Why is owning the first portion of **Ps. 105:7** so important to our spiritual identity?
- II. Next read **Colossians 1:9-14**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. How might this passage of scripture provide a model for praying for people we are trying to lead to Christ?
  2. As you read through this passage, what petitions seem especially powerful to you in helping someone to grow spiritually?
  3. What do you think might happen if we began to faithfully pray this passage of scripture for people we are seeking to lead to the Lord?
- III. Now read **John 15:1-12** utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Read **John 15:1**. What does Jesus call Himself in this verse?
  2. Why would this be an especially meaningful name to a Jew?
  3. What is a vinedresser, and who did Jesus say was the vinedresser?
  4. Read **John 15:2**. Why would God prune someone from the Body of Christ who claimed to be connected to Jesus but bore no fruit?
  5. How might God prune us to make us more fruitful?
  6. Read **John 15:3**. A vinedresser would normally clean the leaves of a grapevine, especially those nearest to the ground. Why wouldn't God have to do that with Jesus's disciples?

7. Read **John 15:4-5**. What does it mean to *abide in Christ*?
8. Why is it impossible for us to produce fruit apart from Christ? (Explain using the vine and the branches symbolism Jesus used.)
9. Read **John 15:6**. What is Jesus saying will happen to people who don't stay connected to Him?
10. Read **John 15:7-8**. Why is God not afraid to answer the prayers of someone who abides in Christ?
11. How does our fruit prove we are Christ's disciples?
12. Read **John 15:9-10**. According to v. 9, how has Jesus loved us?
13. According to v. 10, what is the secret to abiding in Christ's love?
14. Read **John 15:11**. Why has Jesus shared this important information with us?
15. Read **John 15:12**. List some qualities of Jesus's love for us that should show through us when we love others *as He has loved us*?