

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

John 15:1-17

LEADER'S STUDY

The fruit of the Holy Spirit:

The Holy Spirit lives inside every true believer. In fact, the Holy Spirit living in us is the evidence that we belong to Christ. Scripture tells us that, because of this, we will bear fruit...much fruit. When we are walking in alignment with the Holy Spirit, He causes us to bear His fruit. This is the hallmark of a follower of Jesus. When you are following Jesus the Holy Spirit is working in and through you. He is transforming your life and there is clear outward evidence. Scripture is also clear that apart from being "in Christ" we can do nothing. So, just like our bad works are forgiven in Christ, even our good works are something we can't take credit for. They too are because of Christ. This is such great news! It means that we are completely forgiven and completely justified, and it is through no work of our own. When you can't take credit for even your good works it actually frees you to walk in obedience simply because of love for Jesus. As you read this week meditate on this passage and ask God to reveal areas where the fruit of the Holy Spirit is evident in your life or maybe where it isn't but is should be. The only way to really bear fruit is to abide in Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in obedience and be filled with joy in knowing and following Christ.

As you prepare for this week ask questions like this. What is the fruit Holy Spirit? What does it look like in your life? How is the Holy Spirit changing me? What areas of my life am I resisting that change? What is the evidence that I belong to Him?? What does it mean to abide in Him? How is God revealing Himself and his character through this scripture? How is God changing my thinking? Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scripture: Col 1:6, James 3:17-18, Galatians 5
What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

How is God calling you to think and to live differently? How does this change your perspective today? How is God calling you to respond based on this scripture? Spend some time reading this whole chapter and meditating on it as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word.

PREPARING BEFORE GROUP

PURPOSE: Life transformation through the Holy Spirit. He uses scripture and prayer to renew our minds and transform our lives!

PRAY: Pray for the people in your groups by name. Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to help you lead well as you meditate on key passages and seek to know God's heart.

PLAN: It is not too early to start looking for new leaders within your group. We will be holding a new leader training this summer for groups to launch in the fall. As you identify potential leaders, encourage them to come to that training and start talking about what it would look like to launch a new group. You might even consider coming with them to help them take that next step.

Consider taking some time to break into small groups for prayer. This is a way for people to feel more comfortable sharing personal needs and praying specifically for one another.

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ John 15:1-17

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective.

(With larger portions of scripture like this, it's good for multiple people to read it aloud. Especially online, this helps people get used to using their voice)

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

STUDY QUESTIONS

What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?

What seems to be the main point of these verses?

How does this portion of scripture point to Jesus and the gospel?

What did you discover or learn about God and His character from this passage?

Look at one or two key words and define them really clearly, then look at them in context with that definition. Does this change your understanding?

Why did God bring me to this scripture today?

What parts of this passage are challenging to your current way of thinking?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How are you going to obey this passage?

What is your "I will" statement?
(Encourage everyone to steer clear of "we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

With whom are you going to share what you have learned?
(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth and it blesses the one who hears the it. Rom 10:17)

Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?