

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Sing Sing Sing, It's All Because of Jesus, Blessed Assurance, Fairest Jesus

WELCOME

My Favorite Place. Draw on a sheet of paper your favorite place and tell your group about it.

WORD

JOHN 15:8

⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

The Bible tells us that man is designed to bear much fruit. We don't become disciples of Jesus by bearing much fruit, but it does show that we are His disciples.

DESIGNED TO BEAR MUCH FRUIT

"...I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide..."

John 15:16

God in His grace has designed us for a great purpose, that we should bear much fruit and glorify Him. What fruits are we to bear?

1. Internal: **Character (Galatians 5:22-23)** – The first kind of fruit that God expects or is looking for in our lives is "character." As disciples of Jesus, the people around us must see and notice the character transformation in our lives. We are to be loving, joyful, peaceful, kind, good, faithful, gentle and self-controlled as we grow in our character.
2. External: **Good Works (Ephesians 2:10)** – To show the world who He is like, God uses us, His masterpiece created anew in Christ to do good works.
3. **Disciples (Matthew 28:19-20)** – Grow deep and big in a small group. Plug in, be willing to grow, be discipled, get equipped and become His disciple.

We are designed to bear not little, but much fruit. When people around us see these fruits in us, it will make them curious about what makes us different. They will then have a growing desire to have it for themselves as well. This is an opportunity to tell them about Jesus.

ABIDE IN JESUS AND BEAR MUCH FRUIT

⁴I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 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."

John 15:1,4-5

Make Him our Home and our Center (what defines us). For Jesus Christ to be the true vine, He must be the only vine. The vine should be where we find our home. But where does our heart find its home? What defines us and what matters most to us is our home. The hope and joy of our life – where we find purpose and meaning – is in Jesus, the True Vine. He is our home.

Let His words and Spirit fill us daily (what fills us). Apart from Jesus we cannot bear fruit. We must abide in Jesus to bear much fruit. To abide means to continue or to remain. Abiding is what defines us, fills us and consumes us.

Live for Him in thoughts and deeds (what consumes us). Anything that takes us away from God can become sin. If we are consumed with counterfeit vines, we will not bear much fruit because we are not abiding in the True Vine.

What we fill our life with is what we are abiding in. If we set our heart to abide in the Lord, Jesus will then fill us (**John 15:4-5,7**). We are to fill our lives with God's word and with the Holy Spirit.

It is incumbent upon us to make sure that we are getting our life from the only one True Vine – Jesus.

WORD (cont'd)

If we are not abiding, we must repent and make an intentional change.

If we truly abide in the True Vine, we can truly change and bear much fruit. This means we must also grow in love and obedience.

HE PRUNES US

When we plug in to Jesus, there will be times of pruning. It may be frustrating to be pruned, but it is encouraging to know that it is necessary for the vinedresser to do the pruning so that one can bear much fruit.

A branch that never bears fruit is probably a branch that is not abiding in God. Some of us are already

bearing fruit but God is still pruning us so that we bear even more fruit.

He prunes to remove a branch's dead or dying growth. He exposes the branches that are not bearing much fruit to ensure that the sun can get to the branches. He stretches them to increase their size and the quality of fruit they bear.

Sometimes we have a small view of what God is doing in us when He prunes us. But we can trust that He knows what He is doing. He prunes us because He loves us and because He wants to accomplish His greater plan and purpose in us. We were designed to bear much fruit. Abide in Jesus so that we can bear much fruit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Mark of a Disciple.** What is the proof and the purpose of bearing much fruit according to **John 15:8**?
- 2. Fruit-bearing Disciple.** What fruits are you bearing as a follower of Jesus? Do you consider them much fruit?
- 3. Bear Much Fruit.** What defines, fills and consumes you today? What will you do differently to bear much fruit?

WORKS

PRUNED NOT DOOMED

Write down your most recent pruning experience from the Lord.

How did you feel?

What were the thoughts in your mind?

What was your behavior towards it and how did you respond?

As you are writing now at hindsight, what are your feelings and thoughts?

As best as you can, write down the learning nuggets from your pruning experience and share them with your accountability partner.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends