

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Jackie Groves | How Do I Produce More Fruit? Better Fruit?
The Evidence: Week 4

Main Idea

Webster defines EVIDENCE as that which tends to prove something; to make plain or clear. The fruit produced in our lives is then an outward expression of what He is doing on the inside. If, as a Christ follower, you have not yet been remodeled on the inside, then you won't have the abundant fruit on the outside.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)*

*Additional Scriptures: 1 Chronicles 16:27, Psalm 16:11, 19:8, 28:7, 34:8, 119:1-3,
Nehemiah 8:10*

WALK IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD

In order to keep in step with the Spirit of God, we have to reject habits of the flesh that DISTRACT us and pull us back to our old ways. Whichever seed we CHOOSE will produce a fruit. What seeds are you planting? What specific evidence is there that you are in step with the Spirit?

Additional Scriptures: Galatians 5:19, 2 Timothy 2:22, Romans 8:5, Colosians 2:6-7,

BE WILLING TO BE PRUNED

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." (John 15:1-2)

THE EVIDENCE

Becoming more fruitful means that we must both remove the unnecessary things - bad fruit - and then prune (cleanse) the fruitful parts. What unnecessary things do you need to remove from your life? Where do you need to be pruned so that more fruit can be produced?

STAY HUNGRY

Esau made a bad trade. He let his hunger for something fleeting override his desire for God's blessing in his life. We all hunger for SOMETHING. Stop looking to be satisfied. Look to be filled.

Addition Scripture: Genesis 25:29-34

What are you really hungry for? How is your hunger displayed by the fruit you are producing?

Summary

Fruit of the Spirit is the outward expression of what is happening inside. Producing more and better fruit is not just a matter of desire. It is a matter of choices. We can choose to desire things that will SATISFY us in this moment ONLY, OR we can hunger for what DEVELOPS our character and will yield GOOD fruit in our lives, relationships, families, and CAREERS.

Call To Action

A goal without a plan is just a wish. A goal with a plan produces results. Day-to-day decisions define destinies. As you strive to produce more and better fruit in your life this week, consider these calls to action.

Grab your journal or a notebook and list out the nine fruits of the Spirit. Next to each specific fruit, write its evidence in your life.

Pastor Jackie mentioned how God uses people in our lives to help in the pruning process. Take some time this week to speak with an influencer in your life and ask them for some feedback about the fruit, or lack of fruit, that is evident in your life. Text or call them now to set it up.

What better way to produce more and better fruit than by discovering your purpose through Growth Track or Joining a Connect Group.

Mark your calendars for a special Saturday night service on March 4, 6PM, at the West Houston Campus.

Group Leader Resource

Game: Time Heist

Have you ever considered what you would do if you could travel back in time? Inspired by the events of Avengers: Endgame, Time Heist is a game where your team proposes outlandish schemes they would pull off if they could time travel.

To play, ask your team to write down time travel plans on scraps of paper, and place the scraps in an opaque container. Then, pass the container around and have each member of the team draw a paper and discuss what is written on it. Time Heist not only reveals your team's creativity, but also provides an amusing way to learn more about each other.