



JOURNEY GROUPS

MAY 3 LEADER GUIDE

LEADERS NOTES

A few notes for you as a leader as you meet again this week:

- Please RSVP to Pastor Ryan with your Journey Group's potential attendance numbers for the end-of-year celebration if you haven't already.
- **SAVE THE DATE!!!!** On Monday, May 11th, we are having our end-of-year celebration for all Journey Groups! This is not just leaders, it's everyone! It will be a night to celebrate, have fun, and reflect! This will take place at 6:30 pm, and childcare will be provided. Let your groups know about it this week, please, and plan to come together!
- Please let Pastor Ryan know of your plans for the summer, whether you are planning to meet regularly, meet occasionally, or take a full break.
- As this is the last time that many groups will meet, I encourage you to take a moment to express what the people in your group mean to you and how they have been used by Christ to shape you.

SHARE - ICE BREAKERS

- What is something that God has been teaching you recently?
- If you could go back to Old Testament times, who is one person you would want to connect with and why?

STUDY

Digging Deeper into "Discipleship: Fruitful - Week 4"

1. Could you demonstrate the progression of a disciple being surrendered, rooted, and then Kingdom-focused? In other words, how do these concepts build upon each other? (Answers will vary. The response to the gospel initially begins with surrender, and submission to the will of God is often required to be rooted in the things that He has designed for our growth in Him. Furthermore, rooting ourselves in His Kingdom begins to shape us and our perceptions of ourselves, others, and this world. Then we begin to value what He values and see our commission to multiply His Kingdom-impact for His glory.)
2. Take time to read **John 15:8** to kick things off. What does it mean to bear fruit? And why are we expected to be fruitful? (Bearing fruit is a by-product of a life that is rooted in God, abiding in Christ. It is essentially a life saturated with the love of God, seeking to obey His commands out of love. We are expected to bear fruit because we are expected to be rooted or connected to the Vine, Who is Jesus.)
3. Jesus says we recognize people by their fruit (**Matthew 7:15–20**). What kinds of “fruit” show up most often in your daily life? (Answers will vary. It could be Christlike character, obedient living, or effective witness and mission for Jesus)
4. What do your reactions, habits, and priorities reveal about what (or who) is discipling you right now? (These are essentially “fruit” that manifests in our lives and demonstrates what has been feeding us.)
5. Where are you most tempted to be shaped more by culture (social media, news, personalities) than by Jesus? (Answers will vary.)
6. Read **Acts 4:1–13**.
7. Can you think of a time when someone could clearly tell you had “been with Jesus”? What made that evident? (Answers will vary. But often the inward qualities of Jesus [e.g., **Gal 5:22–23**] become our inward qualities.)
8. What do you think it practically looks like to be conformed to the image of Jesus (**Romans 8:29**)? (Answers will vary.)

9. How does remembering that fruit comes after salvation (not before) shape the way you view obedience? (Fruit is the product of a life rooted in Jesus, not the work that brings one into relationship with Him. Therefore, fruit is empowered by God, not something we try to manifest ourselves.)
10. How does bearing fruit bring glory to God (**John 15:8**) in everyday life? (It highlights His power and majesty as He does things that only He can do.)
11. What is the difference between trying to impress people with behavior and actually displaying Spirit-produced fruit? (Answers will vary. But essentially it is the difference between a life that says, "Look at me" vs. "Look at Jesus.")
12. How does repentance produce visible fruit in a believer's life? (It testifies to the worthiness of God as we submit to Him and choose allegiance to Him as opposed to anything else.)
13. Take time to read **John 15:1-10**.
14. Jesus says, "Apart from me, you can do nothing" (**John 15:5**). Where do you find yourself trying to produce fruit on your own? (Answer will vary.)
15. What does it practically look like for you to "remain" or "abide" in Jesus on a daily basis? (Answers will vary. This answer should include spiritual practices that shape us by grace.)
16. Which part of the "Surrendered → Rooted → Kingdom-Focused" pathway do you most need to grow in right now? (Answers will vary. But recognize that this pathway is not a one-time experience, but a cycle that the Spirit continually brings us into for transformation.)
17. How can this group help one another stay connected to the vine this week? (Answers will vary. But this question aims at how we intentionally try to encourage each other.)
18. What is one specific step you can take this week to intentionally abide in Jesus and trust Him to produce fruit in you? (Answers will vary. But this question aims at how we can hold each other accountable, and do so for the sake of Christ.)

19. Going back to Acts 4 and Peter and John's boldness for Christ. Read Acts 4:13–22. What would it look like, concretely, for you to “speak what I have seen and heard” this week? (Answers will vary. But it should include some testimony of what Jesus has uniquely done in their life.)

20. The early church prayed for boldness, not protection (Acts 4:29). What do my prayers reveal about my priorities? (Answers will vary. But what we ask God to do reveals not only what we believe He can do, but also what we are here to do.)

PRAYER

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