

Foundations

Week Three: Fruit of the Spirit

Connect Group Guide - 10.5.25

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

- If Christ is the root of your life, Christ's character will be the fruit of your life.
- We can't manufacture the fruit of the Spirit on our own; it's a natural outflow of staying connected to Christ.
- Good trees don't bear bad fruit - our fruit should consistently match our roots.
- True disciples are known by their fruit, not just their words or church attendance.
- Transformation comes from abiding in Christ, not just trying harder in our own strength.

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Mike said, "If Christ is the root, his character will be the fruit." How have you seen this play out in your own life or in the lives of others?
2. Discuss the fruits of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. Which of these do you find easiest to exhibit? Which are more challenging for you?
3. The message emphasized that we can't manufacture spiritual fruit on our own. How does this challenge or encourage you in your walk with Christ?
4. Have you ever struggled with presenting a "church face" that doesn't match your private life? How can we cultivate authenticity in our faith?
5. Pastor Mike mentioned that focusing on what we "can't do" as Christians often backfires. How can we shift our focus to what we "can do" through Christ?
6. Reflect on the statement: "Your fruit is your sermon." How does this change the way you think about evangelism and living out your faith?
7. The message touched on loving our enemies. How can we practically apply this challenging teaching in our daily lives?

Practical Applications:

1. **Daily Connection:** Commit to spending intentional time with God each day this week, focusing on "abiding" rather than "striving."
2. **Fruit Inventory:** Take some time to honestly assess the fruit in your life. Are there areas where your actions don't align with your professed beliefs?
3. **Love in Action:** Choose one "enemy" or difficult person in your life and pray for them daily this week. Look for practical ways to show them kindness.
4. **Accountability:** Partner with someone in the group to check in regularly about staying connected to Christ and cultivating good fruit.
5. **Testimony Time:** At your next meeting, share stories of how focusing on abiding in Christ (rather than just trying harder) has impacted your life this week.

Closing Prayer:

Close the session by praying for each other, asking God to help the group bear good fruit by staying deeply rooted in Christ.