

## GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

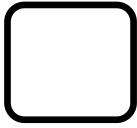
*Life application materials for use in Life Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.*

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1. Springtime and Jesus have something in common. Jesus' grace shines on us and things happen! The springtime sun comes out and things happen! Cause and effect! Do you have a favorite effect of springtime...or maybe a least favorite?
  
2. Read the message text (John 15:1-8) and look at the message outline to remind you of the message.
  - a. What was memorable from the message? Share it with the group.
  
  - b. What question did the message raise in your mind? Discuss it as a group.
  
3. Read Acts 4:32-37. Sometimes when Christians discuss these passages, the conversation devolves into a debate. "Should we try to recreate this situation?" "Is this a model for society?" Let's avoid all that. Take a deep breath and just appreciate these verses. What is happening here? Why are people doing what they're doing? (see the end of vs 33 especially)

Just as God's grace was powerfully at work among the church to help people then, God's grace is powerfully at work among us, too. St. Paul's and the Bridge assists many individuals and organizations in our community. By doing so, we praise God for his grace and we show his love to those around us. If you'd like to get involved in serving at community events, supporting our local food pantries and charitable organizations, contact Sally at [swallner@stpmuskego.org](mailto:swallner@stpmuskego.org). You can also donate to the Friends in Need Fund through online giving.

4. Read Acts 5:1-11. The action of giving some but not all of the money wasn't the real problem. Doing something that was mutually beneficial for the poor and for the donor wasn't the real problem. The real problem was this thought: "I can hide my motives from God." Why is that thought untrue? Why is it such a serious problem? How can we avoid such a serious problem?
  
5. Back in Acts 4:36 and 37, we are introduced to Barnabas. But that's actually his nick name. God gave him such a great spiritual gift of encouragement that people called him "Encourager"! Is there an Encourager in your life? How about a Comforter or a Helper or a Leader or a Peacemaker or a Mercy-shower? Take a moment to discuss and appreciate that God has given people in your life and maybe even in your group amazing spiritual gifts.



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points.

## Resurrection Reality: Fruit What Kind of a Branch Are You?

John 15:1-8 (Bible page 1081)

**Introduction:** Are you excited about planting this spring?

### I. Are you a throw-away branch? (vv. 2a, 3, 6)

A. Players in the picture

- J\_\_\_\_\_ is the vine.
- G\_\_\_\_\_ the F\_\_\_\_\_ is the gardener.
- W\_\_\_\_\_ are the branches.

B. We lose our faith and fall away because we do not stay c\_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus.

C. If this is our reality, the heavenly Gardener will throw us into the f\_\_\_\_\_.

D. Jesus tells us over and over again in his Word that he has f\_\_\_\_\_ us.

### II. Are you a pruned branch? (v. 2)

A. While we are forgiven, our life will not necessarily be e\_\_\_\_\_ and c\_\_\_\_\_.

B. God p\_\_\_\_\_ and t\_\_\_\_\_ us.

C. God cuts into our life because he l\_\_\_\_\_ and wants us to produce f\_\_\_\_\_.

D. What needs to be pruned from your life today—right now?

### III. Are you a fruitful branch? (vv. 4-5, 8)

A. We are fruitful branches when our lives are filled with g\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_\_.

B. We become more fruitful when we stay connected to the v\_\_\_\_\_.

C. Apart from J\_\_\_\_\_, there's nothing good.

D. It is Jesus who provides the p\_\_\_\_\_ we need to produce the fruits of faith.

**Conclusion:** Isn't it true that we are all three kinds of branches?

### My Next Steps

**Memorize** Romans 1:16 – *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.*

**Read** Ephesians 4:1-16 for next week's Resurrection Reality sermon: *The Ascended Lord Creates a Living Church.*

**Consider** taking the *Discovering My Spiritual Gifts* survey to determine where you can produce fruits in your life in view of the spiritual gifts God has given you. Go to [stpaulmuskego.org/volunteer](http://stpaulmuskego.org/volunteer) or there are copies at the Welcome Center.