



**MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION || PERSONAL GUIDES**

“FRESH FRUIT”

MARCH 29TH, 2020



“Fresh Fruit”

[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

God tells us as Jesus followers to _____ *fruit* and _____ *fruit*
(note Matthew 3:8; Romans 7:4; Colossians 1:10; James 3:17).

Why does the *fruit of the Spirit* matter so much? Because it:

1. Is Our _____

It is like a _____...

- A. _____ Jesus followers (note Matthew 7:21-23) –
_____ alone do not paint the real picture of a person's
relationship with God (note Matthew 7:16-20). Jesus said that every life
produces fruit (either _____ *fruit* or _____ *fruit*)...how would
the *fruit* of our life _____ us...?
- B. To _____ (note John 13:34-35 and Romans 2:4)
– When unbelieving individuals observe and are on the receiving end of
the *fruit of the Spirit* (_____) in our lives, they understand, more than
words alone could ever _____, that we belong to Jesus, and
that they can belong to Jesus, too.

2. Makes Christianity _____

The *fruit of the Spirit*...makes Christianity _____ in our own lives and to others.

It _____ a picture of what the Christian life is like.

Good trees produce good fruit = Fresh vs. _____ fruit.

The *fruit of the Spirit* makes our faith real by providing a profoundly visible _____ in what life can be (note Ephesians 5:8-11, 18).

If life were always _____ to us; if people were always pleasant and courteous; if we never had headaches, never knew what it was to be tired or under terrific pressure, the fruit of the Spirit might go unnoticed. But life is not always like that. It is in the midst of difficulties and hardships that we especially need the fruit of the Spirit; and it is in such times that God may especially work through us to touch other people for Christ. (Billy Graham)

Are we in rhythm with the Holy Spirit?:

- Is the *fruit of the Spirit* _____ observable in our lives today
- Note John 15:4-8; 16
- Our _____ are producing fruit of one kind or another.
- Is it _____-produced fruit, or is it something less than that
- Don't settle for less when God has so much for us.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICE BREAKER: What new things have you been doing since the Shelter in Place was ordered? Share one of the more humorous things that you've done or experienced during this unusual season.

1. Pastor Tom explained that the fruit of the Spirit is like a uniform. What are some uniforms you've worn in your life? Have some felt more "comfortable" (physically, emotionally, mentally) than others? Explain.
2. Our "*Real I.D.*" is seen first by other believers. Read Matthew 7:16-23. If our lives produce either good or bad fruit, Pastor Tom asked us, "...how would the *fruit* of our life identify us...?" Making it a bit more personal, how is the fruit of your life identifying you to your family, your small group?
3. Our "*Real I.D.*" is also seen by unbelievers. Review the passages Pastor Tom used (John 13:34-35 and Romans 2:4). Let's ask that tough question again. How is the fruit of your life identifying you to your unbelieving family, Riversiders, co-workers, and neighbors? Especially during this difficult time in our history, is your *fruit* showing others your true identity?
4. Pastor Tom reminded us the Fruit of the Spirit makes Christianity real in our lives. Do we have fresh, sweet fruit, or is ours a bit waxy? Explain. How do we allow Ephesians 5:8-11, 18 to be a part of our daily lives?
5. Re-read the Billy Graham quote listed in your message notes. Have you been able to experience good, fresh fruit in the midst of our current circumstances? How so?
6. Read John 15:4-8; 16. What do Jesus' words tell us are key to producing a fruit-filled life? How can you support each other as you seek to be fruitful each day?

PERSONAL GUIDE

Day One: 1 Samuel 27
Day Two: 1 Samuel 28
Day Three: 1 Samuel 29
Day Four: 1 Samuel 30
Day Five: 1 Samuel 31





“Fresh Fruit”

[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

God tells us as Jesus followers to bear fruit and produce fruit (note Matthew 3:8; Romans 7:4; Colossians 1:10; James 3:17).

Why does the *fruit of the Spirit* matter so much? Because it:

1. Is Our Real I.D.

It is like a uniform...

- A. Other Jesus followers (note Matthew 7:21-23) – words alone do not paint the real picture of a person's relationship with God (note Matthew 7:16-20). Jesus said that every life produces fruit (either good fruit or bad fruit)...how would the *fruit* of our life identify us...?
- B. To unbelievers (note John 13:34-35 and Romans 2:4) – When unbelieving individuals observe and are on the receiving end of the *fruit of the Spirit* (love) in our lives, they understand, more than words alone could ever convey, that we belong to Jesus, and that they can belong to Jesus, too.

2. Makes Christianity Real

The *fruit of the Spirit*...makes Christianity real in our own lives and to others.

It paints a picture of what the Christian life is like.

Good trees produce good fruit = Fresh vs. waxed fruit.

The *fruit of the Spirit* makes our faith real by providing a profoundly visible contrast in what life can be (note Ephesians 5:8-11, 18).

If life were always kind to us; if people were always pleasant and courteous; if we never had headaches, never knew what it was to be tired or under terrific pressure, the fruit of the Spirit might go unnoticed. But life is not always like that. It is in the midst of difficulties and hardships that we especially need the fruit of the Spirit; and it is in such times that God may especially work through us to touch other people for Christ. (Billy Graham)

Are we in rhythm with the Holy Spirit?:

- Is the *fruit of the Spirit* easily observable in our lives today?
- Note John 15:4-8; 16
- Our lives are producing fruit of one kind or another.
- Is it Spirit-produced fruit, or is it something less than that?
- Don't settle for less when God has so much for us.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!