

SMALL GROUP / STUDY GUIDE

SCRIPTURE

Read John 15:7–8

KEY TRUTH

Fruit is not manufactured through striving.
It naturally grows through abiding in Jesus.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage say?)

What promises does Jesus give to those who abide in Him?
According to Jesus, what role does His Word play in abiding?
What does Jesus say happens when believers bear much fruit?
How does Jesus connect fruitfulness with being His disciple?
What does the passage reveal about prayer and abiding?

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage mean?)

The message described fruit as “the visible result of the life of Jesus flowing through you.” What do you think that means?
Why do you think people often try to “manufacture” spiritual fruit instead of abiding in Jesus?
What does it mean that “abiding changes what you want”?
How does abiding help shape our prayers according to God’s will?
Why do you think Jesus connects fruitfulness to relationship rather than performance?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

(What does this mean for us?)

1. Abiding Produces Fruit

Which fruit of the Spirit do you most long to see grow in your life right now?
Where do you feel most frustrated with your spiritual growth?
Are there areas where you've been trying harder instead of staying closer to Jesus?

2. Abiding Shapes Our Desires

What are some desires, priorities, or attitudes God has changed in your life over time?
How does spending time with Jesus affect the way you think, respond, or pray?
Is there an area where your desires may not yet align with God's heart?

3. It's Not HOW, It's WHO

What does "It's not HOW, it's WHO" mean to you personally?
Do you tend to approach the Christian life more through striving or dependence?
What would it practically look like for you to stay more connected to Jesus this week?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a moment and ask:

Am I trying to produce spiritual fruit through effort alone?
Where am I most tempted to fake or "staple on" fruit?
What would it look like to truly trust Jesus to transform me from the inside out?
Do I believe that closeness with Jesus actually changes a person?

PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Spend intentional time abiding.

Each day this week:

slow down for a few minutes
read a portion of Scripture
talk honestly with Jesus
and ask Him to shape your desires and produce His fruit in your life

Pray:

"Jesus, help me stay close to You today.
Produce in me what only You can grow."

As you go through your week, pay attention to moments where:

peace replaces anxiety
patience replaces frustration
generosity replaces selfishness
or love replaces irritation

Notice the fruit Jesus is growing.

PRAYER

Jesus,

Thank You that true fruit does not come from striving, but from staying connected to You. Teach us to abide in You daily and to trust You to transform our hearts from the inside out. Shape our desires, strengthen our prayer lives, and produce in us the love, joy, peace, and faithfulness that only Your Spirit can grow. Let our lives reflect You so clearly that others would recognize that we have been with Jesus.

Amen.