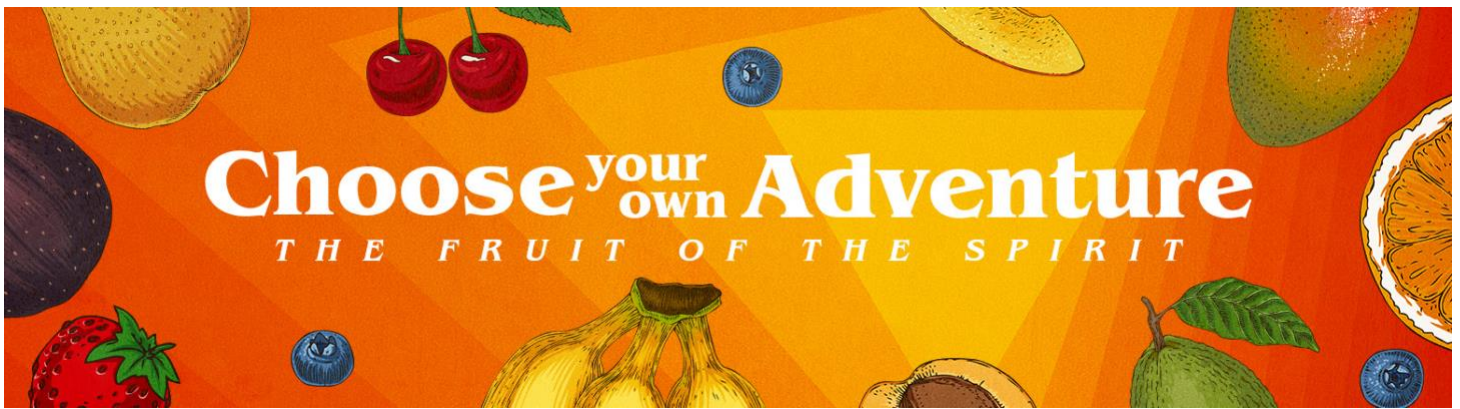




Bible study for the week starting August 9, 2026

SHARE

We are on an adventure...a journey...with Jesus... Our salvation is secure... when we come to a fork in the road.... What do we choose? Often we choose the easy way...the selfish way...instead of God's way.

God has a fruit for us as we remain in Him... the fruit of the Spirit.

This week Love versus Apathyand Joy versus Despair. When have you experienced any rottenness or ripeness in your life?

READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read **Galatians 5:16-26** Works of the flesh versus the fruit of the Spirit.
 - a What is the warning for those who live primarily serving the flesh?
 - b Which fruit of the Spirit do you sometimes struggle with the most?
 - c How do we crucify the flesh and keep in step with the Spirit?
2. Read **John 15:1-17** What sticks out from these words of Jesus?

How does it feel to know that God chooses you? We can't and don't choose Him...but He chooses us and bears fruit in our life.

When have you been chosen by someone? How did that make you feel?
3. Read **Ezekiel 36:25-30** He gives us a new heart and cleanses us from the inside out... the outcome is growth... fruit...crops. Is this blessing always immediate?

PRAY

Pray that we would continue to abide and grow in the hope, joy, love, and grace the Spirit provides.



CHOOSE LOVE AND JOY

Galatians 5:22-26; John 15: 16-19; Ezekiel 36:25-28

August 16, 2026 – Pastor Ben Schrank

“You did not choose me, but I **CHOSE** you and appointed you that you should go and **BEAR FRUIT** and that your fruit should abide.” Jn 15:16a

Works of the flesh....but the **FRUIT** of the Spirit

“Fruit is always the miraculous, the created; it is never the result of willing, but always a **GROWTH**. The fruit of the Spirit is a gift of God, and only He can produce it. They who bear it know as little about it as the tree knows of its fruit. They know only the power of Him on whom their life depends”

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“If we live by the Spirit, let us also **KEEP IN STEP** with the Spirit.”

- Galatians 5:25

“Let all you do be done in **LOVE**” 1 Corinthians. 16:14

- 1) Love is more than a **FEELING**.
- 2) You tend to worship what you love the **MOST**.
- 3) Unconditional love still sets **CONDITIONS** for living.

“The **JOY** of the LORD is my strength.” Nehemiah 8:10

- 1) Joy has less to do with happiness than **HOPEFULNESS**.
- 2) Joy is not something you find within **YOURSELF**.
- 3) Joy is defiantly declaring that Jesus is **BETTER**.

“These things I have spoken to you, that my **JOY** may be in you, and that your joy may be full. “This is my commandment, that you **LOVE** one another as I have loved you.” John 15:11-12