

Mark 11:12–24 — Small Group Study

Key Thoughts

1. Jesus seeks true spiritual fruit, not just outward appearances.
 2. The fig tree represents Israel's lack of faith and fruitfulness — and serves as a warning to us.
 3. Fruitfulness comes only by abiding in Christ, the true vine (John 15).
 4. God's people are called to be a light to the nations; hollow religion blocks others from seeing Him.
 5. Faith, prayer, and obedience connect us to God's life and power.
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Discussion Questions

1. What does the story of the fig tree teach us about the difference between outward appearance and genuine faith?
2. How might we, like Israel, be tempted to “look alive” spiritually but lack fruit?
3. In John 15, Jesus calls Himself the true vine. What does it practically mean to abide in Him?
4. Jesus clears the temple because the court of the Gentiles had been corrupted. What does this reveal about God's heart for the nations?

5. Mark shows that prayer, faith, and fruitfulness are all connected. How do you see those linked in your own walk with Christ?

6. If Jesus were to walk into our church today, what kind of “fruit” would He find in us?

Applications

- Identify one area of your life that is “all leaves, no fruit,” and ask God to prune and redirect it.
- Take one step this week to abide more intentionally in Christ (e.g., prayer rhythm, Scripture meditation, or accountability).
- Share your faith or serve someone in a way that reflects God’s love and points them toward Christ.

Closing Prayer

“Father, thank You for showing us that You desire real fruit, not empty leaves. Help us to abide in Christ daily, to live in Your Spirit, and to reflect Your heart to the nations. Make us a church that bears much fruit for Your glory. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”