

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE FOLLOWING JESUS' TRUTH

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits." Matthew 7:15-20 (ESV)

⁴⁹ "Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." Luke 3:9 (ESV) *Also see Luke 13:6-9.

¹⁶ "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, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you." John 15:16 (ESV)

²² "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another." Galatians 5:22-27 (ESV)

⁴⁸ "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)

¹⁴ "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?" James 2:14 (ESV)

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Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What's your favorite kind of fruit?
- Have you ever had to review your own job performance? Was it easy, or a challenge?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Luke 6:43-45 slowly, emphasizing words that stick out to you. Does this passage have more to do with self-examination or the evaluation of others? (Note: Look at verses 41-42 for context).
- Read Galatians 5:22-27. What can you relate to in the fruit of the spirit (22-23) and in the fruit of the flesh (26-27)?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Use question #10 from N.T. Wright's "Luke: For Everyone" (pg. 46).
- Read Ephesians 2:8-10. This passage talks about salvation and works. Which one comes first. Why?
- What are some examples of fruit that our neighbors and city would be excited about?
- Q: What do apple trees make? A: apple trees. One of our values as a church is multiplication. What do disciples make?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Take an inventory. Are you more like the tree with the axe at the root, or a tree full of fruit?
- Who is discipling you? If nobody, ask one of our Elders, Pastors, LIFEGroup Leaders, or another mature Christian to fill that role.
- What's a way that you can bless a neighbor or co-worker this week with some of your fruit?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- "God, instill me with a living and active faith that comes from being rooted in Jesus. Help me to grow, and help others grow, so that the body of Christ is built up, and those in the community are tangibly blessed by our presence." Amen.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three for 15 minutes:

1. How did you see God at work in your life this week?
2. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
3. What kind of conversations are you having with non-Christians?
4. Pray for one another.