



DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Fruitful Life – Part 1

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Main Idea – God’s plan for you -- that He determined from before the beginning of time -- is greater than you could have imagined for yourself. However, to experience it, you will have to become planted (established) in His Word and in His church.

Fruit of the Spirit

- **Galatians 5: 22-23** (see below) list the attributes of the Fruit of the Spirit. These are things that will become part of your personality as you grow in your relationship with God.
- The first three attributes: love, joy, and peace, are God’s gift to you.
- The second three attributes: longsuffering, kindness, and goodness are gifts you can give to others.
- The last three attributes: faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are what you can display back to God for His glory.

Appreciation versus Depreciation

- Some things in life gain value as time goes on. Other things lose value as time passes.
- It is best to put our resources into things that will appreciate in value through time.
- **Proverbs 22:6 – Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.** This is one Bible verse that teaches the wisdom of investing in things for the long-term.
- A life invested in what Jesus is doing is a life that will experience an appreciation in its value. For example, can you imagine what the colt on which Jesus rode into Jerusalem was worth after Jesus used it? **Mark 11: 2-3 – and He said to them, “Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring it. And if anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it,’ and immediately he will send it here.”**
- In the same way, what Jesus touches in your life will appreciate in value.

Spirit versus Flesh

- We are both body and spirit. Our body struggles against the spirit, and our spirit struggles against our body. **Galatians 5: 16-18 – I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the**

Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

- *These are the things that become evident in our personalities when the flesh is dominant in our lives:* **Galatians 5: 19-21 – Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in the past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**
 - The Bible is clear about what is sin. Sin is not negotiable. It is what it is.
- *These are the things that become evident in our personalities when the Spirit is dominant in our lives.* **Galatians 5: 22-26 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.**
 - The Holy Spirit produces all those attributes. Each of us is the medium through which the Holy Spirit shows its attributes.
 - The attributes of the Fruit of the Spirit are for the benefit of others, not for our own benefit. For example, the love we receive from God should be re-produced through us for others.

Potted versus Planted

- Simply because a person is a Christian, and will someday live in Heaven, does not mean s/he is living the best quality of life that is possible, and that God has intended for him or her.
- Many of the problems that come upon Christians result because they have a “potted” lifestyle rather than a “planted” lifestyle.

A potted lifestyle

- Potted plants are mobile, they can be easily moved around to different places.
- Mobility has value, but it also limits growth potential.
- The root systems of potted plants are smaller and more fragile than plants living in the outside ground.

A planted lifestyle

- Plants growing in the outside ground have deeper root systems and are therefore stronger.

- Plants growing in the ground produce more fruit than do potted plants.
- Plants growing in the ground have greater potential for growth than do potted plants.
- Anyone planted in God’s house will produce fruit visible in the outside environment. **Psalm 92:13 – Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.**

The generational benefits of being planted

- Almost everyone knows the story of **David and Goliath** told in **1 Samuel 17**. Perhaps, not many people know that David’s lineage came from a group of people who had a “planted” mindset.
- **The Book of Ruth** primarily tells the story of two women: Naomi and Ruth. Through good times and bad, Ruth was planted in her devotion to her mother-in-law Naomi. As a consequence, **Ruth** married a man named **Boaz**. **Together they were the great-grandparents of King David.**
- Great things come from being planted in one place.
- Being planted may not always be the most exciting thing but, long-term, will likely produce the best quality return on the time and resources invested.
- Where we plant ourselves today will determine what our children will experience tomorrow.

Reflective Questions for The Fruitful Life, Part 1

1. The Bible tells us that our fleshly desires are continually in battle against what the Holy Spirit wants to produce through us. What things usually produce fleshly fruit in your life? What things in your life usually produce Spiritual fruit?
2. What does it look like to have a “potted” mindset? What does it look like to have a “planted” lifestyle?
3. What are things that may cause a person to unknowingly construct a “potted” mindset in life? What kind of decisions reflect someone who is living a “planted” mindset?
4. Can you identify some good things in your life that came from your parents having a “planted” mindset? What are some things you can do to ensure your children benefit from your own “planted” decisions?