**Fruit (9/1/24)**

**Discussion Questions**

**Summary:** Life is busy. We hustle and hurry from one activity and commitment to the next. So many responsibilities and distractions keep us from walking closely with the Lord. How can we prune and trim our schedules to abide in Christ? How is the Lord pruning you right now to help you draw closer to Him? Jesus is the true vine – the source of life. He forgives and cleanses us continually, throughout our lives. And Jesus is your heart’s true home. So abide in Him. Live with Him at the center of your heart and mind. *Then* you will bear much fruit.

*“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”* John 15:4

**Find in Jesus:**

1. The Source of **Life**, now and forever(v. 1-2, 6; Deut. 30:15-20)
2. Forgiveness and **Cleansing**, initially and ongoing (v. 2-3; Rom. 8:30; Gal. 5:22-23)
3. Your Heart’s True **Home**, to rest and remain (v. 4-5)

**Then you *will* bear Fruit** (v. 2, 5)

*“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”* John 15:5

**Get Started:**

1. What was your favorite house you ever lived in? What made it special?
2. What made that house a home for you? Is there a particular memory that stands out to you about that place?

**Dig In:** Read John 15:1-5

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. What is the point of the grapevine analogy? Does anyone know something about gardening or grapes in particular to help us understand this?
3. Why is pruning so important for a healthy grapevine? What does pruning / cleaning mean here in verses 2-3?
4. There are some strong warnings here in verses 2 and 4 (and 6). Why do you think Jesus expressed it so strongly?
5. What are the conditions Jesus describes that set up the outcome “he it is that bears much fruit” (v. 5)? What is the environment like we need to create so we can bear much fruit?

**Move Forward:**

* Share some feedback on the Spiritual Life Worksheet. What was helpful in your interaction with it? Was anything confusing?
* What practices and habits help you abide in Christ – feeling closer to Him?
* What tends to keep you from those habits?
* What is one thing you will do this week to abide in Christ?
* Pray for each other to internalize and apply John 15:5.