



Roots and Fruit

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Focus Jesus is the root who produces good fruit in us. When we abide in Him during the good and difficult times, He'll produce the fruit of the Spirit in us.

Fun Have you ever had a favorite tree? What made it special or unique? Share the significance of your favorite tree with the group.

Review Key Scripture: John 15:8

- **Jesus is the vine (root).**

John 15:5; Revelation 5:5, 22:16

Jesus is our vine or grapevine. A grapevine produces fruit while a jungle vine is known to produce thorns. Jesus produces good fruit in us, and without Him we can't do a good thing. But through Christ, we can do all things (Philippians 4:13) and bear good fruit. The key is to abide in Him and let Him abide in us.

- **We are the branches.**

John 15:4; Galatians 5:22–23

When we abide in Jesus, He produces the fruit of the Spirit in us. We are the branches who carry that fruit and display it. We can't bear fruit without connecting to Jesus—in good times and bad.

- **The Father is the vinedresser.**

John 15:1; Isaiah 5:1–7; Matthew 21:33–40

Our Father is the farmer, gardener, and landowner over all. He planted His Son as the best vine in His vineyard. He gave us a choice to accept

the vine and follow Jesus. When we abide in Him and bear the fruit of the Spirit, we glorify our heavenly Father.

Group Dynamics Idea

Connection and community are important aspects of your small group. Plan a relaxing and fun activity that your group would enjoy outside of your normal meeting time. This is a great way to transition from your summer session to the new fall semester.

Discuss

1. Read Matthew 12:33. Do you know someone who has a reputation for displaying good fruit in their life? Describe their good fruit and give some examples of their actions.
2. What does it mean to abide in Christ? What can we do to stay connected to Jesus, our vine?
3. Has there been a time in your life when you stayed connected to the Lord when it was difficult? How about a time when you didn't? What was the result? How can abiding in Jesus help you through a struggle?
4. Ask your group to write down the fruits of the Spirit as you read: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Ask them to take a moment to reflect over the following questions and quietly pray over the list. What fruit seems to be a struggle for you? What fruit is the Lord wanting to produce in you right now? Circle the ones you feel the Lord is bringing to your attention, and pray over them throughout the week. Turn these areas over to the Lord daily.

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- The fruit displayed in our lives comes from a root.
- Jesus is our vine and root who produces the fruit of the Spirit in us.
- Abide in and stay connected to Jesus during the difficult times in life.
- Display the fruit Jesus produces in you by abiding in Him on a constant basis.

Prayer

Father, thank You for sending Your Son to be our Savior, our vine, and our root. Without Him, we're nothing. Lord, I ask You to produce fruit in me that is good and pleasing to You. Forgive me for the times I haven't stayed close to

You. Help me to abide in You. It's my desire to display Your fruit to others and bring You glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip

As summer comes to a close, now is a good time to ask your group to be praying about whom they can invite to join the group in the fall. Ask them to pray for an opportunity to talk about the group with the person God lays on their heart.