

WE MUST ABIDE TO BEAR SPIRITUAL FRUIT

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: I AM CALLED
SERIES: GOD IS THE GIFT GIVER - I AM GIFTED

BIG TRUTH: WE MUST ABIDE TO BEAR SPIRITUAL FRUIT

Psalm 1; Philippians 1:9-11; Matthew 3:8; Mark 4:20; Romans 7:4; Matthew 12:34

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 15:5

"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."

BIG IDEAS

- Everyone is bearing the fruit of the flesh or the Spirit.
- We cannot bear the fruit of the Spirit unless we abide.
- Abiding leads to constant repentance and obedience.

BIBLE PASSAGE: GALATIANS 5:16-25; JOHN 15:1-11

UNITE - I AM CALLED

The Unite Year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are given a spirit of adoption as sons (Romans 8:15-16), are made a child of God, and we are also saved into a family- the Church. The Unite Year explores how we are to live as a part of a family, and to live in light of our calling as servants and disciples of Christ. We use our gifts to build up the church as we pursue unity, humility, and gentleness with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-2).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- Every good gift comes from the Father.
- They have been specifically and uniquely gifted to bring God glory.
- Spiritual gifts are given for the edification of the body of Christ.



Every student should strive to...

- Pursue unity with other members of their church family.
- Use their gifts for the good of God's people.
- Practice regular repentance and obedience.



Every student should feel...

- Thankful for the various gifts God has given their church family.
- Convicted of the ways they bear the fruit of the flesh.
- Secure in their standing as God's children through the Holy Spirit



Every student should want...

- To be known for loving others like Jesus loves.
- To learn more about their spiritual gifts and the gifts of others.
- To both suffer and rejoice with God's people

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.

WE MUST ABIDE TO BEAR
SPIRITUAL FRUIT**BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 15:5**

"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."

Jesus is our source.

"I am the vine; you are the branches."

- Jesus is the source of everything for a believer. He is the creator and sustainer of all life. In order to grow spiritually, we must be connected to Jesus. We are connected to Jesus through His Spirit. We receive the Holy Spirit when we repent and believe in Him as our Savior.
- The Holy Spirit works inside of us to grow us in knowledge and understanding of who God is and what He desires of us. We are fruitful because of Jesus and the work of His Spirit in us. Without a connection to Jesus, we cannot bear fruit.

When we abide in Jesus, we bear fruit.

"Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit..."

- When we abide in Jesus, we draw from His power in order to bear the fruit of the Spirit. Abiding in Jesus is a pursuit of Him and a submission of our hearts and minds to His will.
- We abide in Christ when we read and study His Word daily, when we pray without ceasing, and obey God's commands. Abiding in Christ is how we are able to bear fruit for Him.

We cannot bear fruit apart from Jesus.

"Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

- Spiritual fruit is only possible when we have a relationship with Jesus. A relationship with Jesus is only possible when we confess and repent of our sinfulness and believe that Jesus is our Savior. This sets us free from our sin nature and reconciles us to God.
- When we are reconciled to God, we have His Spirit inside of us. It is only through the Spirit that we can bear spiritual fruit. It's only through an abiding in Jesus that we are fruitful daily. We must seek Him in order to bear spiritual fruit every day.

WE MUST ABIDE TO BEAR SPIRITUAL FRUIT

BIG IDEA #1: EVERYONE IS BEARING THE FRUIT OF THE FLESH OR THE SPIRIT.¹

[THIS]

Our lives indicate what or who we are serving. Our attitudes and behaviors indicate what is truly in our hearts. In Galatians 5:19-21, Paul lists the behaviors and attitudes that are products of our flesh, or sin natures. These works of the flesh are what come naturally to us because we are all born sinners. We do not have to work very hard to bear the fruit of our flesh. We are all naturally bent toward selfishness, gluttony, worshipping false idols, and rejecting God. These works of the flesh are the fruit we bear when we do not know Christ and we aren't living for Him. We focus on ourselves and seek to only do what pleases us. We do not love others in a way that pleases God and we do not acknowledge God or seek to obey Him. This fruit of the flesh is not a fruit that furthers the Kingdom of God or brings Him glory. Even after we become believers, we fight against these works. We must abide in Jesus in order to resist our sinful natures.

[THEREFORE]

Read Galatians 5:19-21. Which of these works of the flesh do you struggle with more on a daily basis?

Galatians 5:19-21 lists the behaviors and attitudes that our sin nature produces. We are liars, covetous, unkind, and more when we walk in our flesh. These are the things that are natural to us.. Each day we must turn to Christ and seek to use the power of His Spirit to resist the temptation to do these things.

[THIS]

When we follow Christ, we are transformed and set free. We are no longer enslaved to our sin nature that results in the works of the flesh. Instead, we receive the Holy Spirit and are set free to bear the fruit of the Spirit. This fruit is spiritual and supernatural because it is possible only through the Spirit's presence in our hearts. The Holy Spirit works inside of us to make us more like Christ and as He does, we bear fruit that is Christlike. In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul lists the fruit of the Spirit. As we abide in Jesus, we will practice patience, kindness, gentleness, and every other fruit of the Spirit. These things will be what marks our lives and how people describe us. This fruit is not something we can achieve in our own power apart from Jesus. We must know Him and be transformed by saving faith in Him in order to bear this fruit.

[THEREFORE]

Read Galatians 5:22-23. How has the Lord cultivated the fruit of the Spirit in you recently?

As the Lord cultivates the fruit of His Spirit in us, it may be more aware of one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit over another at different times in our lives. We may sense our love becoming more Christlike in one season of our life and then in another, our patience reflecting the Lord's more. The Spirit works in us daily to make us more like Him.

What aspects of the fruit of the Spirit do you find difficult right now?

Our flesh nature is our greatest challenge to walking in the Spirit. Galatians 5:16-17 warns us that we must actively seek to be led by the Spirit in order to not satisfy our sinful desires. Our sin keeps us from seeing the areas that are being cultivated and may keep us from growing in the fruit of the Spirit.

1. Galatians 5:16-24: We either bear the works of our flesh or we bear the fruit of the Spirit.

WE MUST ABIDE TO BEAR
SPIRITUAL FRUIT**BIG IDEA #2: WE CANNOT BEAR THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT UNLESS WE ABIDE.²****[THIS]**

In John 15:5, Jesus teaches the connection between abiding in Him and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. We cannot bear fruit consistently unless we are abiding in Jesus. It is more than saving knowledge; it is a pursuit of Him. It is a positioning of ourselves in a place where we are always looking to Him and growing in Him. In order to do this, we must be in His Word daily. This means that we prioritize knowing the Bible. We set aside time each day to read and study God's Word. We make prayer a part of our daily lives. We do not let other things in life become more important than knowing and growing in Jesus. If we are going to abide in Jesus, we must stay connected to Him. The Bible is one of the main ways we can know God; therefore, we must commit to be students of the Word and remain connected to the Vine by reading and studying the Word of God.

[THEREFORE]**What does it look like practically for you to abide in Christ on a daily basis?**

In order to abide in Christ, we will have to discipline ourselves to read and study the Bible. This will not magically happen for us. Scripture speaks of meditating on His Word and of making time to hide God's Word in our hearts. Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 119:15 are a few verses that remind us of the importance of placing God's Word in our hearts and meditating on it. Making time for God's Word is abiding in Christ daily.

[THIS]

Abiding in Christ is also a position of humility that results in our becoming more like Him. We are connected to Jesus through the Spirit, but we must approach our time with Him in humility in order to truly grow. Pride has no place in our relationship with Jesus. We must remove that from our hearts and humble ourselves before Him. We must come to Him with a right view of ourselves, understanding that the grace and mercy that allows us to even be connected to Him. When we approach Him in humility, we become students of Him. We grow and learn from Him and the result is that we become like Him. This position of humility allows us to grow more Christlike. As we grow more Christlike, we grow more fruitful and use the spiritual gifts that God has given us. Unless we abide in Jesus, we cannot bear fruit. If we do not position ourselves in humility to Him, we will not bear fruit. We will bear the works of the flesh and waste our lives.

[THEREFORE]**What does it look like to humble yourself?**

Humility isn't thinking less of yourself, but more of having a right view of yourself. 2 Chronicles 7:14 gives us a good picture of what it looks like to walk humbly before the Lord. Humility requires repentance and obedience. They go hand in hand. We must have an attitude of submission to Christ and His Word in order to be humbled before it.

Read John 15:1-11. How does your connection to Jesus help you bear fruit for Him?

When we are connected to Jesus, we are connected to our source for all things. Just like the branches on a tree or bush can bear fruit or flower when they are connected to their vine or root, we can bear fruit when we are connected to Jesus, who is our vine. He helps us remain faithful and grow more fruitful day by day.

2. John 15:5: Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. We abide in Him and when we do, we bear fruit.

WE MUST ABIDE TO BEAR SPIRITUAL FRUIT

BIG IDEA #3: ABIDING LEADS TO CONSTANT REPENTANCE AND OBEDIENCE.³

[THIS]

Abiding in Christ is a pursuit of Him. To pursue something is to strive after it in order to obtain it. If we want to abide in Christ, we must pursue Him. Pursuing something or someone is a constant state and implies that the thing desired is necessary to our lives. We pursue many things in life: friendships, pleasures, an education, careers, and much more. We pursue these things because we want to obtain them. If we want to bear the fruit of Christlikeness then we must pursue Jesus. Our pursuit of Him must be all-encompassing. This means we leverage our lives in order to obtain our goal of abiding in Him. He will be the center of all that we do. Every decision we make will be through the lens of how we can glorify Him. We will live our lives in a way that enables us to serve Him. As we pursue Him, we will abide in Him. We will give up the other things we pursue in order to more fully pursue Him.

[THEREFORE]

What are some earthly pursuits that distract you from abiding in Jesus?

In 1 John 2:15-17 we see that those who love the world and pursue the things of the world do not pursue Christ and do not abide in Him. We cannot love the things of the world and God. Matthew 16:26 teaches us the importance of renouncing the things of the world and following after Jesus with all that we are.

[THIS]

When we grow in Christ, we will live a life marked by repentance and obedience. We will repent because we will understand ourselves and the mercy and grace we have received from God. When we really grasp our own sinfulness, we will repent daily. We understand our sinfulness as our understanding of God's holiness grows. A pursuit of Christ also leads to daily obedience. We will desire to obey God as we grow in our knowledge of Him because we will understand just how incredible He is and how incredibly merciful He is to us. This produces an awe and wonder in us and a desire to please Him. It also shows us our own sinfulness, which produces a repentance. God is so gracious to reveal our sin to us and to draw us to Him. He is faithful to correct us and to guide us to right living.

[THEREFORE]

Do you live a life of constant repentance and obedience? Why or why not?

Obedience is what God requires and desires from us. John 14:15 and James 1:22 remind us of this truth. Our lives should reveal that we seek and do obey God. Additionally, we should daily repent of our sins. 1 John 1:9 teaches us that we should repent of our sins and confess to other believers our sin. This helps hold us accountable.

How does constant repentance and obedience help you bear fruit for Jesus?

Galatians 5:22-25 shows us that when we walk in repentance and obedience, we are being led by the Spirit and we will bear the fruit of the Spirit. We will use our spiritual gifts effectively when we are led by the Spirit. It's important to submit ourselves to the Spirit and to be led by Him.

3. John 15:1-2: God corrects and disciplines those He loves. His people confess and repent of their sins.