



Life Group Study Notes

“Bethel’s Discipleship Path: Be1 Discipleship Training”

Ps. Bruce Fidler - June 3, 2018

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Have you ever grown a garden? What did you grow? Was it successful?
- Do you have any plants in your home? What kind? Who takes care of them?
- Have you ever been to an Arboretum? Did you like it? Why, or why not?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Key Quote: Jesus has chosen and appointed us to bear fruit that remains.

John 15:1–17 (ESV) **1** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. **2** Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3** Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. **4** 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. **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... **8** By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples... **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...

Go and Bear Fruit

- Jesus is the source of life.
 - Apart from Jesus we cannot bear fruit.
 - A total lack of fruit indicates no saving connection to Jesus.
- Fruit refers in part to internal transformation manifested in one’s life.
- Bearing much fruit glorifies God and evidences being Jesus’ disciple.
- Jesus chose and appointed each of us and all of us to “Go and bear fruit.”

- This involves each person's active participation.
- Mission and evangelism are clearly central to fruit-bearing.

Abide in Jesus

- Abiding in Jesus results in bearing fruit and in his joy being in you.
- Abiding in Jesus involves...
 - Jesus' words abiding (living) in you.
 - This leads to God-pleasing prayers that get answered.
 - Believing Jesus loves you.
 - Jesus showed his great love for us when he died for our sins.
 - Being Jesus' friend.
 - Jesus has shown us he wants us to be his friends by dying for us and by disclosing God's plans to us through the Scriptures.
 - Jesus' disclosure of God's plans also shows us this desire.
 - Obeying his commands.
 - Obeying Jesus shows we love him and want to be his friend.
 - Obeying Jesus especially involves loving one another.

Accept God's Pruning

- Pruning is painful, but purposeful: we are able to bear more fruit.
 - 85-95% of a vine is pruned in current horticultural practice.
 - God prunes us by "cleansing" (Greek) us with his Word (truth).
 - Truth, not trials, prunes us. Trials, however, can attune us to truth.

Get equipped to bear fruit by taking Bethel's Be1 Discipleship Training!

- Learn the basics of how to share your faith, help someone follow Jesus, and lead a Life Group.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- How do you respond to the responsibility to lead others to Christ and help them follow him?
- What do you do to cause Jesus' words to be alive inside you?
- How do you respond to God's pruning in your life?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for the fruit he has brought about in and through your life.
- Ask God to teach you how to abide in Jesus in a greater way.
- Ask God to increase your fruitfulness.