

"FRUITFULNESS"

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
Bishop Edward A. Smith

INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

Life Group Lesson Objective: Understanding God’s command to “be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth....Genesis 1:28

Life Group Leader preparation and meditation:

In the Beginning: When God spoke the world into existence he spoke fruitfulness and increase

Scripture preparation:

Gen 1:11-28, 31

- Gen 1:11 – And God said let the earth bring forth... and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself...and it was so
- Gen 1:12 – And the earth brought forth.....
- Gen 1:28 – And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it.....

Ps 92:12-15 – The he righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; To shew that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him

To the New Testament Believer:

- Colossians 1:10 – That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

God expects fruitfulness in our everyday lives, he has equipped us to bear much fruit; and that our fruit would remain.

Choose to be fruitful.... all the days of your life – It’s a Choice

Week #1: John 15:4 – Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Group Discussion Questions: Psalm 92:12 – the **righteous shall flourish** like the palm tree. How would you describe “you are flourishing” (prospering, achieving success)?

Keep learning – stimulate your mind, listening to God; learning about God
Dont waste your time....learn new things

- Don’t have a blinded mind – 2 Cor 3:14
- Keep a sound mind – 2 Tim 1:7

Keep looking – Where is God in your situation? Are you seeing evidence that He is working in your life; or how is He going to work in your life? Looking for purpose?

- 2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling not according to our works, but according to his own purpose.

Keep loving – Love God with all your heart; love one another, love is a healer. Genuine love causes you to live longer....experience God’s love and love other people. Loving and forgiving go hand in hand.

Let’s be honest – Discussion: 2 Tim 2:20-21 – Share ways that God has prepared you for His use....is this something that you think or pray about often?

Week #2: Spirit-filled life – Fruitfulness brings the power of God into your Life

Group Discussion Questions: If there were no hindrances, what could God do with you?

Keep your Joy! – relaxes your body.

- Do you believe Jesus laughed and was joyful?
- Being joyful attracts people to you
- Helps you to relax

Keep leaving – leave what burdens you have given to the Lord, leave it there, don’t keep carrying burdens, that’s a sign of baggage. Leave all the stuff in your past, stop hanging on to it. Cast all your cares on Him. Keep your mind on the things of the Lord.

- Be Glad and rejoice in the Lord!

Keep dreaming – imagination is a gift of God. It will eventually become a reality in your life. We are creative beings...God made us that way. Don’t be afraid to dream....longing to be married to the best person...longing to be abundantly blessed. Longing for greatness (remember God is great). We are fearfully and wonderfully made! – Psalm 139:14

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Let's be honest – Discussion: Share ways you are experiencing the power of God in your life?

Week #3: “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise”- Prov 11:30

Discussion Question: Are you thinking of ways to win or bring people to the LORD?

You will bring forth fruit in your old age! Don't live in the past.

What you focus on is what you become. What are you doing? What are you looking forward to?

Are you blessed to be a blessing? Are you being your best?

Keep laboring – DON'T STOP. If you have more time on your hands....Now you can give more time to the work of the Lord. Helping family members, volunteering at different places to help others in need.

Don't be a time waster – Ask God, the Holy Spirit will guide you on how you can use your time more wisely

- He has an answer – Hear His voice

Psalm 138:8 – The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me....

Let's be honest – Discussion: Jesus stood still and asked the two blind men, what will ye that I shall do unto you? Matt 20:32-34.....Examples of Healing – do you need healing to become fruitful?

Week #4: “Fruitfulness in our everyday lives” – Psalm 112:1-10

Discussion Question: How do you STAY fruitful?

Psalm 1:1-3 – Blessed is the man that does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly {does not follow their advice or example) Delights in the law of the Lord, meditates in his Word, teachings habitually day and night. He will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth fruit in its season, and whatsoever he does, it prospers

The Bible is clear about being fruitful (youthful & fruitful)

Ps 92:12- the righteous will flourish like the date palm [long-lived, upright and useful];

- They are Disciplined

Ps 92:13-14 – Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. [Growing in grace] they will still thrive and bear fruit and prosper in old age; they will flourish and be vital and fresh [rich in trust and love and contentment];

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- Cedars grow to 100 feet
- delightful, stability & strength, stable, strong
- They shall continue to bring forth fruit...
- Live close to God
- Yielding fruit in old age
- Fat and flourishing (full of life)
- Youthful

We can keep bearing fruit all of our lives: We can Live long and Live strong

Psalm 91:16 – With long life will I satisfy you and him, and shew him my salvation.

Keep Listening: Focus on God; he is always talking, waiting to hear Him, keep listening to wise women and men.

God created us for a purpose..... Job 42:16-17: After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his son's sons, even four generations. So Job died, being old and full of days.

Covet earnestly the best gifts..... 1 Cor 12:31

Praying: in the Spirit, in your own language.....

- 1 Cor 14:4-5 Amp – One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church [promotes growth in spiritual wisdom, devotion, holiness, and joy]. Now I wish that all of you spoke in *unknown* tongues, but *even* more [I wish] that you would prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater [and more useful] than the one who speaks in tongues, unless he translates *or* explains [what he says], so that the church may ^[b]be edified [instructed, improved, strengthened]

Let's be honest – Discussion: What does your future look like in terms of fruitfulness? Do you think about it?