



Passages: John 15:1-8, Philippians 2:12-13, Colossians 3:16-17

1 What forms do spiritual fruit take in the life of a believer? How can we tell the difference between real fruit that's grown on the vine and fake fruit?

2 What are some things that God needed to prune away from you as a newer Christian to help to begin to produce fruit? What needed to be removed and how did He do that?

(A reminder that we want to share authentically, knowing that our group is committed to keeping our personal stories confidential. We believe that growth happens when we are humble and real with each other and we agree to provide a safe space for people to share honestly.)

3 What similarities do you see between these two passages? How do they relate to one another? What is God's role and what part do we play?

John 15:1-2,4

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... 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.

Philippians 2:12-13

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

- 4 Read and discuss John 15:7-8 and Colossians 3:16-17. What does it mean that Christ's word abides in us? What role does it play in our lives and the lives of other believers we worship with?

John 15:7-8

⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Colossians 3:16-17

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- 5 How might God's commitment to your fruit bearing change how you respond to different events in your life? How should that change our perception of the different circumstances we encounter?

- 6 It takes grape vines an average of 2-3 years before they begin to produce a good crop of viable grapes. What future harvest are you cultivating today? What is the spiritual fruit that you want to see in your life over the next 6 months to 2 years? What needs to be pruned? What needs to be fertilized? What fruit do you want to see in you produced in your walk with Jesus?