

LIFE GROUP notes

09 August



Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Called to be fruitful



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member how believers can be fruitful in the Kingdom of God?
2. What does Genesis 1:28 tell us about God's command to mankind? **(God blessed them and said to them; be fruitful and increase in number...).**
3. What was Jesus' words in John 15:16? **(You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go bear fruit – fruit that will last.).**
4. What does Mark 4:15 tell us? **(Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it Satan takes away the word.).**



Let's go deeper

5. What does Mark 4:17 tell us about seed falling on rocky places? **(Since they have no root, they last only a short time.).**
6. What does Mark 4:19 tell us about seed falling among thorns? **(The worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.).**
7. What does Mark 4:20 tell us about a fruitful heart? **(Like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop – some 30, 60, 100 times.).**
8. What does Hebrews 1:3 tell us about God's powerful Word? **(The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word.).**



Let's apply this

9. **Mark 4:20;** Others, like seed sown on **good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop** – some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.).
 - What is the condition of your heart towards God's Word?
 - Have you allowed "weeds" (worries of this life, anxiety, desires for other things) to choke the Word of God in your heart?
 - Share a testimony of how God provided, protected or healed you with His Word?
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to hear and accept God's Word?

SUMMARY:

Called to be fruitful

Read: Mark 4:3 – 20; John 15:1 – 16

The Bible teaches that fruitfulness is one of God's primary purposes for His people. From Genesis to Revelation, God calls His people to live lives that bear fruit for His glory and for the blessing of others. To be fruitful means a changed and transformed life that is effective, productive and counts for God in His Kingdom.

Fruitfulness begins with God – see Genesis 1:26 – 28 and Hebrews 1:2 – 3

The first command God gave humanity included the call to be fruitful. God who created the universe is a creative and fruitful God; His Word creates and bear fruit. As image-bearers of God, created in God's image and likeness, God calls us to live fruitful lives, based on our identity and relationship with God and His Word.

Fruitfulness flows from our relationship with Jesus – see John 15:1 – 16

Jesus chose us with all our faults, failures and everything that's wrong with us He still chose us. He knew exactly all the sins we would commit through our lifetime, and He says not only did I choose you, but I also appointed you to bear fruit.

The parable of the sower – see Mark 4:3 – 8; 13 – 20

vv.3, 14; The seed fell on different kinds of soil, the soil represents our hearts, because that is where all seed starts to grow – seeds of doubt, bitterness or seeds of love, joy and faith – as a man thinks in his heart so he becomes. The seed that God sows is the Word of God. To be fruitful, I need to sow the Word of God.

vv.4, 15; As the seed of God's Word is being sown, the devil tries to steal and rob it.

vv.5 – 6, 16 – 17; Reflect over the past few years as a church how many people have responded and still serve the Lord? How many in your own life as you witnessed and shared the Gospel have fallen away or got distracted, God wants us to be fruitful. Who decides what the condition of your heart is and how deep the roots go down; God no, the devil no, your family no, only you can decide that. No one else.

vv.7, 18 – 19; What stops the seed of God's Word to take root in our lives? The seed has the potential to grow and be fruitful, but worries, anxieties, deceitfulness, riches, chasing the wrong things can make us unfruitful and unproductive in God's Kingdom. Ask yourself, how much fruit am I really bearing in my own life?

vv.8, 20; Like seed, the Word is alive and able to produce spiritual fruit, but the seed must be planted and prepared before the harvest will come.

- **Four kinds of hearts that respond in four different ways to God's Word:**

The hard heart; resists the Word of God and Satan (the birds) snatch it away.

The shallow heart; no roots or depth, and therefore the seed cannot last long.

The crowded heart; the Word of God has no room to grow, because this heart has too many different kinds of seeds growing in the soil – worldly cares, lust, desires...

The fruitful heart; hears the Word, accept it and produce a crop.