

It's important that God's Word continues after the message. At Celebrate, we find that you will talk over this week's message long after our experience is over. That's because God has lasting impact. The Sermon Discussion Guide is designed to help you continue the conversation all week.

The Fruitful Life

Our natural tendency is to hold onto things, and that is why Jesus needed to leave... so that we would learn to depend on the Holy Spirit. Running to Him with excited expectation will make a world of difference for us, just like it did for Cleopas.

Difficulties are God's way of pruning us, so that we can grow deeper in Him and then produce more fruit. We should never think of God's pruning as punishment. He never punishes.

4 Conditions to Being Fruitful:

1. I must cultivate DEEP ROOTS.

Roots keep things stable and connected to nourishment. How deep are your roots, and what are they connected to? In what ways are you currently nurturing your roots? What can you do today to help your roots grow deeper and stronger in connection to God?

Jeremiah 17:7-8; Proverbs 12:3; Colossians 2:6-7; Joshua 1:8

2. I must eliminate the WEEDS.

A plant without roots is a tumbleweed, blowing around in all directions at the will of the wind. Are you feeling like a tumbleweed? What weeds need to be pulled from your garden? Have you asked God to help you identify those things that are distracting you from being in His presence and feeling stable?

Mark 4:19; Psalm 92:7; Matthew 13:24-30, 37-41; 1 Corinthians 10:13

3. I must cooperate with GOD.

Have you been given a request or direction from God that you didn't follow or honor? How did that turn out? Share, if you can, a time when you did cooperate with something God was asking you to do. How did that make you feel?

John 15:1-2; Hebrews 12:11; Acts 5:29-32

4. I must patiently WAIT for God's harvest.

Waiting is a hard season to weather. How you wait is the difference between His windfall and your downfall. Are you waiting on something from God? How has your patience grown while you wait?

John 12:24; John 15:5; 2 Timothy 1:12; Psalm 27:14; Proverbs 3:6

Make It Real

- Devise a plan to cultivate, eliminate, cooperate, and then patiently wait on God.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help identify the weeds in your garden.
- Since knowing Jesus produces a variety of fruit: peace, calm, love, compassion, understanding, gratitude, generosity... by all means, partake of some fruit salad.