**Fruitful Part 3, Abiding in Christ**

**Leader Notes John 15:1-8**

1. **What’s your favorite fruit?**
2. **What’s the goal of remaining in the vine according to John 15:8?**
3. **What level would you assess your fruitfulness as a believer: no fruit; some fruit; more fruit; much fruit?**
4. **Read Gal. 5:22,23; Titus 3:14 and John 15:16. What does good fruit refer to?** (It can refer to God’s character in us, good deeds or making disciples of Christ.)
5. **What’s the only good work we can do to gain eternal life according to John 6:29?**
6. **Why does God prune believers who bear fruit according to John 15:2?**  (So we’ll bear more fruit. Pruning focuses us and wakes us up to grow. God’s strategy is counterintuitive – less yields more.)

**7. How does God prune us?** (God will prune back the sources of your significance, the people you rely on instead of Him, the activities that crowd out time for Him, and love of money and possessions, which pops up like a noxious weed. A change in our health can also be a critical pruning moment.)

**8. Can you share an example of how God pruned you and it led to more fruitfulness?**

**9. What does it mean to abide or remain in Christ?** (To stay close to, seek for, wait for, listen to, respond to the voice and leading of Jesus. Communion with God is a relationship, not a sensation. Abiding in Christ requires obedience to Christ’s commands.)

**10. What are some things you do that help you abide in Christ?** (Spiritual disciplines like reading the Bible, praying, silence, journaling and joining with community can be spiritual pathways that help us to abide in Christ. Some Christian work can also take us away from Christ, while we attempt to do good work for Him.)

**11. Do you truly believe God’s math that working less for God + more time with God = much fruit?**