**Be Fruitful**

**Scripture: John 15:1-16**

**HOOK**

**1. What was your best day/week this past summer? Why?**

**2. What are you most looking forward to/dreading this fall?**

**3. What’s your favorite fruit?**

**BOOK/LOOK**

**4. Read John 15:16. What is a part of God’s purpose for our lives?** (Being fruitful for eternity).

**5. Read John 15:8:** **“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”** **What’s the kind of fruit that Jesus has in mind here?** (Fruit can refer to God’s character in us (Gal. 5:22,23); Fruit can also refer to good deeds (Col. 1:10); Fruit can refer to making disciples (John 15:16); Fruit can refer to hard work in order to make a living (Titus 3:14).

**6. Read John 15:2-5 and John 12:24. What strategies does Jesus give us to be fruitful?** (abiding in Christ, being pruned and death to self). **Which of these strategies is our part, and which is His part?** (abiding is our part; pruning is God’s part; death to self is our part).

**7. What does the word ‘abide’ mean?** (It means to stay attached). **What are some things we can do that help us to abide in Christ?**

 John 15:10 – Obey Jesus’ commands

 John 15:7 – Read God’s Word and pray

 John 15:12 – Love others

 John 5:19 – Do what the Father is doing.

**8. Why do grape vines need to be pruned, cleaned and cut back?** (In order to promote greater fruitfulness). **How is pruning different than God’s discipline?** (If God’s discipline comes to us to address sin, God’s pruning addresses self). **How have you experienced God’s pruning lately?**

**TOOK**

**9. Hudson Taylor wrote: “fruit bearing involves cross bearing.” Do you agree or disagree?**

**10. Do you keep a journal? Where have you noticed God’s activity or promptings lately?**

**11. How can you abide in Christ at work or school? How can you practice the presence of God in everything you do?**