

INTRO

Start by taking time to read the Scripture from the sermon.

Read John 15:1-11 out loud together.

What stands out to you from Jesus teaching on the vine and branches? What is the Holy Spirit drawing your attention to?

IDEA 1

Now, I could say more, but I want to capture what these saints teach us. (1) Life w/ God is not an add-on it's a way of life. Abiding means Jesus is our gravitational center. (2) Spiritual growth must dignify our whole person. Abiding requires embodied practices that recalibrate and reform our hearts toward God. (3) To be formed by Jesus, we need consecrated time, space and awareness. Abiding requires a structure, a Rule of Life.

Have you ever heard of a Rule of Life? What are your thoughts about it?

What does it mean to abide w/ God with embodied practices? How do you abide in God?

Does your life have the structure and space to abide in God's love? Do you have a trellis?

IDEA 2

So, what exactly does Jesus mean by bearing fruit? Well, maybe to state the obvious bearing fruit is just result of a life in union w/ Jesus. Our minds might quickly move to external proof – our behavior. But I believe it goes further. It's not just "do I do the right things" but "do I want the right things." If our wants, longings, and desires are at the core of our identity, the wellspring from which our actions and behavior flow (Prov. 4:23) then true fruit must prove itself in the internal work of our desire.

What does it mean to train our longings, desires, and wants?

How is bearing fruit a missional witness?

What is the fruit you want to bear in your life and the life of others?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Sometimes when moments are presented to us in church for us to respond to, we may not feel ready or we may be distracted or self-conscious in front of a large crowd, but later as we look back we wish that we had responded.

Take some time now in your Life Group to see if anyone would like to receive prayer for more of the Holy Spirit. Even if you went up on Saturday or Sunday and want to be prayed for again, it's okay to ask for a double portion!

If anyone is interested in getting baptized, we'd love to hear from you. You can email Cary at cwood@salemalliance.org to let her know and she'll get you the next step info you need.

PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

What would it look like for you to Craft a Rule of Life?

Take some time to look at your daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly rhythms and try to discern what it would look like to slowly replace deformative habits with practices that attune to the divine and love others.

Take a moment to pause and listen together to the Holy Spirit and see how you might build intentionality with your spirituality. Invite people to share if you have time at the end.