



LEADER PAGE | SERIES | Best Sermon Ever | WEEK 10 of 11 | Sermon date: August 1, 2021

Discipleship Phrase: His heart, my hands.

Big Idea for Series: Jesus' heart for the kingdom is on full display.

Abiding *(grow as a disciple yourself)*

This week's passage, Mt. 7:15-20, speaks about fruit. More specifically, how we can identify others through their fruit (their actions or the way in which they conduct themselves). There is also business for us to do inwardly here as well by taking the time to assess our own fruit (our actions or the way we're conducting ourselves). Take a beat here to pause and truly think about the way you personally conduct yourself on a regular basis. Is it always reflective of God's heart? Would your local cashier say the same? How about your co-workers, would they? More specifically, would those closest to you agree? In a moment of surrender, ask God to raise your awareness to areas that may need work. Share those with someone you trust and then give them permission to speak into them and hold you accountable going forward.

Leading *(facilitate your group effectively)*

As we dive into group this week, we'll be talking about our actions, our conduct and it has the potential to get dicey. Some might come with the point of view that it's all about faith and not so much about our works but recall the charge in James 2:14-26, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds." This will be a healthy tension to process together as a group. In question 1, we're identifying what fruit is and why Jesus might be using it in a singular tense. Question 2 is getting someone to acknowledge that there is good fruit to be found in themselves, believe it or not, it is difficult for many. Question 3 continues inwardly challenging us to consider what part(s) of us may need some work so that more fruit can be had in that area. Lastly, question 4 asks us to consider a person we're often critical of and how we can shift our focus to the fruit that we can see in their life and how we can intentionally focus on calling out more of that.

Shepherding *(know, feed, lead, and protect the sheep)*

Be mindful to always be looking to call out the good you see in your group members. It can be tempting to always be desiring more for those in our respective circles of influence however, we must acknowledge and affirm any fruit we see in those around us. It might be from a place of love that we want more for others, better for others, more fruit. But we can't force any fruit to be produced, that's God's job. He alone owns the results, but what we can do is always own the effort. We, as leaders must be willing to cultivate the soil so that the conditions are optimal and that fruit has an environment in which God can choose to bless so that more fruit can be had. Are ensuring that your group is this type of environment?

Church Announcements *(be in the know & share with your group)*

A space of our own!! Starting Sunday August 1, 2021, we will have a space in the lobby specifically for Life Group's. The Life Groups staff will be there every Sunday helping folks get connected. We would love for you to stop by and hang out and catch up with your Life Group Pastor!

REMEMBER: "Every group deserves a great leader."



LifeGroups

at Southeast

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Welcome/Introductions (*creating a relational environment starts here; be friendly & acknowledge everyone*)

Open in Prayer (*kickoff every group gathering with honoring the Lord*)

Ice Breaker, God Moments, or Highs & Lows (*choose one that is best for your group this week*)

Weekly Vision Checklist (*See Flipbook re: announcements, the “why”, goal, outreach, guidelines, & branching*)

Ask a Hook Question (*a thought-provoking question to get the group heading in the right direction*)

Have you ever tried to growing anything from the earth (plants, flowers, vegetables)? How did you do and why was it a success or a failure?

Recap the Message (*ask a couple people to share what stood out to them in this week’s message*)

Scriptures References (*Read scriptures **directly from the Bible**—it carries its own authority*)

Matthew 7:15-20 (ESV), **2 Peter** 2:1-2 (ESV), **Galatians** 5:22-23 (ESV), **John** 15:4-5 (ESV), **John** 15:8 (ESV)

Implications (*takeaways from the message*)

1. A fruit tree is a fruit tree no matter our perception of the quality or quantity of its fruit.
2. Own the effort, let God handle the results.
3. See the fruit, know the tree, toil the soil.
4. When our identity is solid, our calling is clear and our conduct reflects God’s heart.

Discussion Questions (*going beyond the surface*)

1. Read Mt. 7:16 out loud. What is Jesus referring to when talking about fruit according to this verse? Also, why do you think He uses fruit in a singular tense?
2. Fruit can be defined as “evidence of the character of the power producing it”. What’s one fruit (the way you act) that you can point to that is evidence of God’s character working in you?
3. What part of you do you need to spend the most time cultivating, in yourself, so that you bare much fruit?
4. A fruit tree is a fruit tree despite any lack of quantity or quality of the fruit. Who’s one person you consistently find yourself wishing you saw more fruit and better quality of fruit in? And what might you need to do intentionally this week to begin cultivating and calling up more fruit in that person?

Prayer Requests (*record, share, and follow up throughout the week. Use the LEAD App or CCB if possible.*)

Closing Prayer (*ask openly for a volunteer, encourage your people to step outside of their comfort zone regularly*)

