



ABIDE The CONSEQUENCE

ICEBREAKER

How would your life be different if you knew Jesus was returning at the end of this week?

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 7:15-25 — ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. ²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Read:** Hebrews 12:5-7
Revelation 3: 19
Proverbs 3:11-12
Psalm 94:12
Psalm 119:75
Deuteronomy 8:5

As parents or bosses we've had to discipline. What was our purpose in disciplining? **Share of a time that you had to bring discipline to someone else OR of a time that you were disciplined.**

- What are some consequences of...**
- ... not disciplining?
 - ... resisting discipline?
 - ... being disciplined?

- **Read:** 2 Peter 1:5-8
Romans 5:3-5

Discuss how character is built upon. (fruit upon fruit)

Why do you think God grows fruit in us as a process?

Imagine God changed us all at once - what challenges do you think we could foresee?

- **Read:** Romans 6:1-2
John 14:6
1 John 4:13

The first type of branch are those that believe in Christ but are not bearing fruit so God lifts them up so they can learn to bear fruit and if not they are removed from the vine. The second branch also believe in Jesus and are bearing fruit and God continually prunes these branches so they can bear even more fruit. And the third branch does not believe in Jesus, which would make them non-believers and simply because of this fact alone they are unable to bear any fruit and God judges them for not being connected to the vine.

Of the three branches that Jesus mentions in John 15, which of the branches can you relate to in your past and/or present. **Share with the group an area God has been pruning in your life and that you have seen evidence of fruit in your life from this pruning.**

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Make time apart from your regular routine and on purpose read or listen to the Words of Jesus from John 15. Meditate on these words and ask the Holy Spirit begin a new work in your heart that you desire to bear more fruit in your life to bring glory to God. Be obedient to what the Holy Spirit guides you, directs you to do and give thanks to God for His continual pruning in your life.

MEMORY VERSE

Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. — 1 John 3:24

PRAISE REPORTS / PRAYER REQUESTS