Introduction:

“God, something about the way I’m living my life isn’t working.”

- The only way you can produce fruit that ____________ is if He is producing supernatural fruit ____________ you.
- Getting ____________ for God is not the goal.
- My relationship with Christ has to be the ____________ ____________ ____________, if I’m going to bear much fruit.

What is fruit?

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control;

Galatians 5:22-23a (NASB)

- Fruit ____________ God.
- Fruit is the thing that the tree was ____________ to produce.
- Reminder: ____________ ____________ for your life is fruit... so people see Christ in you.
- The disciples had ____________, ____________, and ____________.
- God wants to produce in you what you ____________ ____________ in yourself.
- The way it happens is ____________

The Process:

No Fruit → Fruit → More Fruit → Much Fruit
The Goal:

- Glorify God. It all begins with your ___________ with Him.

  \[1 \text{ I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.} \quad 2 \text{ Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.}\]

  John 15:1-2 (NASB)

Discipline:

- God will lovingly bring ___________ into your life so you can begin to bear fruit.

- When there is no fruit, some are sick and some are even dying prematurely.

  See 1 Corinthians 11

\[3 \text{ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.} \quad 4 \text{ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.} \quad 5 \text{ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.} \quad 6 \text{ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.}\]

  John 15:3-5 (NASB)

- Pruning is God moving into your life and cutting away superficial priorities and anything you’re ___________ in other than Him, that is decreasing the level of relationship and abiding in your heart and life.

- Discipline has to do with God dealing with the ___________ in your life.

- Pruning has to do with God dealing with the ___________ in your life.

- When God wants to produce more fruit, He will prune those He ___________.

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An “If – then” proposition:

If...

…your kids don’t abide with you and they don’t catch your ____________________...

…you don’t have ___________ to talk with your heavenly Father, building a relationship with Him...

…you don’t have ___________ to methodically, unhurriedly read through the scriptures, and let Him speak to you...

…you’re married and you don’t have _______________ to talk about issues of the heart...

...then...

A lot of what you’re doing is not the will of God, because the primary goal is to produce fruit…. but apart from Him, we can do nothing.

Does God’s Word abide in you?

- It can’t abide in you if you don’t ___________ it, unless you ______________ it, ______________ it, __________________________ it, and ______________ it.

- When I’m most tired, I shift from abiding to, “I’m going to make it happen – Oh God, I want You to help me....”

- God says: “I want you to abide in Me, and then I will show you....”

Why don’t we hear God’s voice when we get over committed?

- We’re not _______________. When you’re abiding, He will say, “This is the way...”

- God will prune about deep issues of the heart:
  - Identity issues, priorities, significance, security.
What does it mean to abide?

- You must ___________________. Ask: Am I in a season of discipline?
  - The “Main Thing” is not what we do ___________ Him.
  - The “Main Thing” is your ___________ and your relationship with Jesus.

- How many of us honestly feel like Jesus is our friend?
  God asks: “Could you refocus? I want a relationship with you.”
  - Secretly, we believe God is ___________ at us.
  - The wrath of God was placed on ___________ at the cross.

- A lot of our Christian energy is not about _______________ God, it’s about helping us feel better about _______________.
  - So Jesus said, “Guys, here’s what I want… abide.”
  - Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10 (NASB)

Discussion Questions

1. How do I do this? First things first. (For me, “No Bible – no breakfast.”)

2. Ask God: What do I need to abide?

3. Do I really believe that abiding in Christ is the most important thing I will ever do in any given 24 hours?

4. How do I live out that relationship every moment of the day?

John 15:7-11 (NASB)