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

- 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 I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 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

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 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 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. 5 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. 6 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

- 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 ________________.
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, __________ 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.*

**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?

7 *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.* 8 *My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.* 9 *Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.* 10 *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.* 11 *These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

*John 15:7-11*