



Sermon Discussion Guide
Fresh Fruit: Choose Love
Sunday, January 3, 2021
Based on Pastor Jason's Sermon

Introduction

We're beginning a five-week series titled *Fresh Fruit*, and contemplating the "fruits of the Spirit" mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. Our big takeaway in this series is about how we can bring incredible things into the world in 2021 when we're in connection with God.

So that we can tackle all of the "fruits" listed in this passage, the preaching team will go over love, joy, kindness, goodness, and then self-control. To compliment those messages, we'll discuss here love, peace, patience, faithfulness, then gentleness.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/messages

Share Your Story

1. What's one positive thing you're bringing with you into the new year?

Hear God's Story

1. MAIN TEXT: Read Galatians 5:16-26 straight through. What's going on here?
2. IDENTIFY A TENSION: Think of the "two natures" Paul highlights in this passage. What's one area of tension between your sinful nature and the Holy Spirit that's unique to your life?
3. BRING LOVE INTO IT: The first character trait Paul mentioned is love. Now read Luke 10:27; John 13:35; and 1 Corinthians 13. We can see that love is God's primary characteristic that He invites us to internalize, live in, and model both to ourselves and others.
We've just identified an area of tension in #2. Now, what would it look like to allow God's love into that area to help you overcome that struggle with your sinful nature?
4. LIVING IN COMMUNITY: What would it realistically look like for you to focus more on responding with God's love in your everyday relationships and interactions with others?
5. LOOKING TO GOD: What does what we've talked about tell you about God?

Create a New Story

1. What's one practical action step you're going to take this week to live out this lesson?

Further Studies: Loving Like Jesus Loves Us

Read John 13:34-35, then move on to the questions below.

DISCUSS

1. Spend a few minutes on your own reading what's around these verses. Then discuss with your group: What's going on here, and what's the context?
2. Why did Jesus say what He did in 13:34-35?
3. What can we learn about God here?
4. What can we learn about ourselves here?
5. What's most challenging about all of this for you when you think about actually living this out in community?
6. What's the most beautiful aspect about Jesus' teaching here for you?
7. How does what we've talked about help to shape your personal spiritual life?

For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

1. For those who have young children in the home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com