

Bearing Good Fruit

Wednesday

Read: *Isaiah 5:3 God's challenge*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why would God ask us to judge between God and God's vineyard?*
2. *How could we get a clear view of how we're growing as God's people?*

Prayer Focus Creator, we've called on you in bad times, though we often leave you out when things are good. We humbly ask for your forgiveness and patience once again.

Thursday

Read: *Isaiah 5:4 God's frustration*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Have you ever felt God was absent or not listening? Do you think God could do more to help us?*
2. *Do feel you are a fruitful branch of God's vine?*

Prayer Focus We don't like talking about how we've let you down, God, despite all you've done for us. We fail to do justice, serve the poor, or sow love as you've shown us in your son. We need help to accept the consequences of our failings and begin to heal—ourselves and your hurting world.

Friday

Read: *Isaiah 5:4b Bearing good fruit*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why does God believe we can produce good fruit?*
2. *How would you change your work in God's vineyard—in your life, your church, your community?*

Prayer Focus Redeemer, you can do all, but we are the only hands and feet you have to reach all who need you. We commit today to be witnesses to your care and love by how we live and serve others. We commit to bearing good fruit for your sake.

Pastor's message: *Isaiah 5:1-4*

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What have been two of the best things about this summer for you?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: *Isaiah 5:1-4*

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)



BEARING GOOD FRUIT

August 14, 2022

Monday

Read: *Isaiah 5:1 Isaiah's song*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Who is Isaiah's beloved in this passage? What is the vineyard?*
2. *Why does the prophet choose to make this a song?*

Prayer Focus We like a good love song, Creator. We like to think about the richness and beauty of your creation. Today, we reflect on that bounty and give thanks for what you created out of love. We recall all you have done for us.

Tuesday

Read: *Isaiah 5:2 The vineyard*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *The grower works hard but the harvest is rotten fruit. How does this metaphor relate to God's work?*
2. *Have you had high expectations for something that didn't turn out as you'd hoped? What was your response?*

Prayer Focus We are the heirs of your diligence, God. You've sustained us, guarded us, and provided for us on many levels. Your love is for us is deep. Yet we have trouble bearing good fruit, even with all your care. We accept our part in bringing in a meager harvest.