

## Taking it Home:

- According to John 15, when you abide in Christ the result will be a fruitful influence. What does abiding produce according to Paul in Galatians 5:22-23? What are the benefits of abiding in Christ according to Romans 6:21-22?
  
- Sometimes as a follower of Jesus we look down to discover that we are entangled in sin. The outcome of our walk with Jesus is not what we had hoped for. How does Hebrews 12 encourage the believer to proceed when this is his/her reality?
  
- Do you feel spiritually dehydrated, wanting more from Jesus? How does the language of abiding in Jesus give you hope? Because you are in Christ, the Holy Spirit is working in you to produce spiritual fruit. Your efforts are not to improve on His work but to submit to Him as He works in and through you.
  
- This prayer may give you hope as you seek to love Jesus well: “Father, help me to love Jesus more than \_\_\_\_.” Fill in the blank with anything that stands between you and an enduring communion with Jesus. When your affection for Jesus is greater than your affection for sin, you are headed in the right direction.

## Recommended Resources

- A Contrarian's Guide to Knowing God by Larry Osborne
- Knowing God by J.I. Packer
- The Knowledge of the Holy by A. W. Tozer

Follow Me  
Bear Much Fruit  
John 15:8

Dr. Matthew St. John  
Bethel Church  
October 12, 2014

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## Bear Much Fruit

### Notes:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit [pastormatthew.net](http://pastormatthew.net) and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, the At Home Study Guide, and a podcast of sermons with study guide, visit [www.bethelhc.com](http://www.bethelhc.com).

# At Home Study Guide

For the week of October 5, 2014

James 2:8

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**Quick Review:** If we want to grow in our love for God and others, Jesus said we must remain in Him. Like a branch remains in the vine, so the follower of Jesus must remain in Him. When we dwell in Christ the result is fruit that looks like His fruit. Just like a grape vine produces grapes, so the vine of Christ will produce spiritual fruit. The Holy Spirit empowers the believer to remain in Christ resulting in joy and fruit unimaginable apart from Jesus. Our fruitfulness provides evidence of God's love for us and our love for Him. As a follower of Jesus you have tremendous capacity to live a fruitful existence because of the love of God in you and your closeness to Him.

## My Story:

- Where have you seen God at work this week?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- If you've ever tried to grow a fruit tree or raise vegetables, what was most frustrating about that process? When did it become fun?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What do you think of first when you think of, "abiding in Christ?"

## Growing Deeper:

- What is the evidence of abiding in Christ according to John 15:1-17? Why is it significant that the command to abide is plural?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Abiding language in the New Testament has several ideas. One way to think of abiding is by location; staying, living or dwelling in a house. Another is of a certain realm or sphere and specifically in a relational sense; to remain or endure relationally. John 15 uses both. What stands out to you in each of these scriptures about abiding?
  - John 8:31
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - John 12:46
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 1 John 2:10
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 1 John 2:24
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 1 John 3:14
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 1 John 3:23-24
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 2 John 9
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How does 1 John 4 provide a framework for thinking about the work of the Holy Spirit?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What vision is the psalmist painting for those who follow God in Psalm 92:12-15?