

Sermon Bible Study Series

Title: A Prayer for Faithfulness and Fruitfulness

Primary Text: Philippians 1:9-11

Expanded Reading: John 15

Big Idea: How can we pray in a way that helps shape our lives to be faithful and fruitful to the praise and glory of God?

1. Pray that we may ABOUND in Love (1:9)
 2. Pray that we may APPROVE what is Best (1:10),
 3. Pray that we may be ABUNDANT in the fruit of right living (1:11)
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Engage

What is a resolution, or new venture, or new season that you have pursued or entered into this past year? What was your hope or goal in that and is there someone or something that is sustaining or supporting you in that endeavour or season?

This question shouldn't take too much time, but should open people to conversation. Validate people's stories and gently invite responses.

- a. ***Have someone briefly review what they remembered from the sermon?*** (You may want to be pre-prepared with the main points to supplement if your group is not able to)
- b. ***What stood out to you/challenged you/ made you think in the sermon?*** (this question could be moved to the deepen section)

Learn

Read Philippians 1:9-11

1. *Paul's first petition for the Philippian church was that they would abound in love for God and for other in knowledge and insight. How does our culture define love, and how does it differ from a Biblical vision of love? What might it look like for us to abound in love for God in knowledge and insight?*
2. *Paul's second petition for the church was that they would be able to approve what is best (which flows from abounding love!). And this means the ability to not only access but adopt what is of utmost importance in*

value and excellence. When it comes to discerning what is best in your life, what does that process look like? And what might it look like for God to be at the centre of the discerning process?

3. *Paul's third petition for the church is that they would be abundant in the fruit of right living. Imagine yourself as a fruit tree. What are kinds of things are growing in your life? What are some things that need to be pruned? Share with the group how you would like to see Jesus produce abundance in your life.*

Deepen

What questions did you want to ask when listening to the sermon?

Leaders, allow people to wrestle with the text. Don't feel like you need to have all the answers, but in your preparation think about the questions that will arise and be prepared to point toward Jesus and the Scriptures for answers.

What Scripture passages might inform these unanswered questions?

Live

Application for ABOUNDING in Love —> A missional practice you can do this week is to reach out to a friend and let them know that you are thinking of them and see if they have any prayer requests. And as soon as you hear back from them, take a moment to pause and pray.

Application for APPROVING what is Best —> A simple prayer that you can begin the day with is, "God, what would you like me to step into today in regards to my heart and my hands? God is there anything you want to transform and purify in me? God is there anything you would like to pursue for your kingdom today? And as God speaks, may your heart posture be Yes and Amen before Him."