

Small Group Bible Study Questions. Sermon by Mark Peters. Jan. 11'26:
Fruitful. John 15:1-8, Jeremiah 17:7-8

From Brendan: "These questions are a guide. You do not have to use every question. Knowing your group, go over these questions and ask God what questions you should focus on. May God bless and guide your discussions!"

- Welcome everyone and open with prayer.

Icebreaker Questions:

- When you hear the word **"fruitful,"** what comes to mind?
- What words would you associate with a **healthy tree or vineyard?**

Discussion Questions. Read John 15:1-8:

- What stands out to you this time as you hear this familiar passage?
- Which word or phrase feels most weighty or challenging? Why do you think that is?
- Why do you think pruning is necessary for fruitfulness? Where have you seen this in your life in the lives of others?
- Is all difficulty pruning? Why or why not?

Jesus repeats "remain" or "abide" again and again.

- How would you describe "remaining in Christ" in everyday language?
- What competes most strongly for your attention, affection, or sense of security?

Drawing on Augustine and Keller:

- How can good things (family, work, reputation) become *disordered loves*?
- What happens to us when we expect ultimate security from something other than God?

Practice-oriented question:

- What helps you *stay connected* to Christ when life becomes busy, stressful, or disappointing?
- What does bearing fruit look like in our everyday lives in 2026?
- **What is one way we (I) can bear fruit this week?**

Reflection questions to take into the week:

- Is there anything in your life right now that feels like *loss, frustration, limitation, or weakness*?
- Could this be an area where God might be pruning?
- Where might God be inviting me to trust Him in pruning?
- Where might God be calling me to remain more intentionally?
- Who might benefit from the fruit God wants to grow in me?

Prayer Options:

- Pray in pairs or triads.
- Or close with a communal prayer, asking God to:
 - Deepen your roots in Christ
 - Reorder your loves
 - Make your group fruitful for the sake of others

Suggested closing prayer line:

“Father, make us a people who remain in Christ, trust Your pruning, and bear fruit that brings You glory and brings life to our city.”