

Supplemental Scriptures



Week 2 – Fruit of the Spirit: Joy

John 15:1-11

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Hebrews 12:11

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Sermon Questions

Week 2 - Joy

1. Reread John 15:1-11. Keep the historical context in mind as you discuss the message and the primary verses. The grapevine metaphor was especially significant to the listeners and readers since it was used to represent the nation of Israel. Imagine yourself as a first-century listener and hearing Jesus say in John 15:1, “I am the true vine.” What impact would it have on you, especially as a first-century Jew?
2. How do the pruning metaphor in John 15:2 and the verses in James 1:2-4 relate to discipline and suffering and true joy? What examples had the most impact on you? How does this contradict the current worldly concept of joy and happiness?
3. Respond to Pastor Dave’s essential question: How do you become truly joyful in 2022? How Does Pastor Dave’s closing story between the golf club membership and prison Bible study/Common Ground materials dramatically illustrate the contrast between true joy and temporal happiness? Share some specific examples from your life.
4. Pastor Dave described his specific activities to achieve the goal and pattern of John 15:7 to have the words of God remain in him. How will you apply his practice and God’s Word to achieve a similar discipline in your life and work toward achieving true joy?

