

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being never and 10 being always), how would you rate the spiritual fruitfulness in your life? Why would you rate yourself this way?
2. Who are the voices who help you to tell the truth about how “fruitful” or “unfruitful” your life is? Can you give an example of when they challenged you on this?
3. If the health of your fruit is determined by the strength of the root, which is unseen below the surface, how would you say the health of the unseen parts of your life are? Do the unseen parts of your life belong to God?
4. The parable told by Jesus of the Tenants in the Vineyard, is one that highlights the lack of gratitude and the grace of the Vineyard Master to offer many opportunities to gather the harvest for the Master. Their response was to kill the messengers, including the Vineyard dressers Son. Have you take note of God’s call to gather your life and the lives around you and give your life to Him as your Master? If yes, tell us about how this came about and what it looks like now. If no, would you like to?
5. If you would choose today to trust Jesus as the LORD of your life - ruling in all things, take this moment to pray with your group. Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your lifegroup leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer: leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am Yours, and You are mine, In Jesus name, AMEN.



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PRAYER

Jesus, I come into your presence now, and I ask you to surround me. I come under your authority and your claim upon my life. I give myself to you—body, soul, and spirit. I give my heart to you, in every way—including the broken places in me. I declare your authority over my heart, for you made my heart and you have redeemed my heart.

Jesus, I invite you into this broken place within me (this wound, this memory). I give you total access to my heart. Come, Lord, shine your light here. Reveal to me all that is going on here. What is this about, Jesus? Come and show me, meet me here, in this place.

Jesus, come and lead me in healing this brokenness in my heart. Speak to me here, Lord. What are you saying to me? Give me ears to hear and eyes to see what you are revealing. Let no other voice speak but you, my Lord Jesus, and you alone. AMEN

John Edredge - Prayer for Inner Healing

OPENING QUESTION

(OPTIONAL)

Who is the most generous person you know personally? Tell us about why you consider them generous.

WORD

³³ "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴ When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵ And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰ When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,

and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴ And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

[Matthew 21:33-44](#)

NOTES

The workers in the vineyard must recognize that everything they have to work with has been given to them. Without the establishment of the vineyard, they would have nothing. We need to do the work out of gratitude, with a desire to glorify the vineyard owner. We need to submit to a life of service. We need a willingness to do anything and everything that God commands without expecting anything in return. Religion and moral correction are not about having God owe us something. They are not about gaining freedom to do what we want to do. Ownership is an illusion. Freedom is an illusion. We can either use what God owns to his glory, or we can use it like it's ours and be evil. There is no alternative. What do we have that we did not receive?

This might make God sound like he is some kind of slave driver. But if you know him, you know that is far from true. We need a hopeful humility as we work for him. We know that nothing we have is our own, but we know the one we work for is gracious. He gave his son to turn us back when we deserve destruction. That makes no sense to us, but it shows us how great his love is. Will he not give a reward to those who work for his glory with humility? It's not about working to earn something. We don't deserve anything but death. But God not only wants to get us working for his glory. The Bible tells us that he wants to glorify us. He wants to give us more than we could ever experience by working for our own glorification. He promises to do that for us. We just need to trust him and put our hope in him as a good master who rewards his people. Accept the cornerstone. Accept the one who owns everything you enjoy. Please don't rely on your religion and work as though they earn you anything. Instead, work as though you could never do enough. Please don't fail to give him glory! Be grateful for his patience and graciousness toward you. He wants us to be what he created us to be. He wants us to fulfill the purpose he created in us. If we seek ownership of our lives and freedom from serving God with everything, we will only find slavery to sin and slavery to a search for meaning.

[Casey Gray - Giving God His Fruit](#)