

NOTES



PRAYER

Father, thank You for seasons of joy and fruitfulness. Guard our hearts from comfort that drifts from Your presence. Help us recognise every blessing as a gift from Your hand. Keep us rooted in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

Share a time in life when you felt like you were “thriving” spiritually or personally. What made that season feel fruitful?

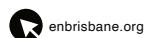


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WORD

1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.
9 What gain has the worker from his toil?
10 I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with.
11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

- Ecclesiastes 3:1–11 (ESV)

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.
3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

- Psalm 1:1–3 (ESV)

Commentary / Reflection

Summer is a season we all look forward to. It's when things grow. Work pays off. Prayers are answered. There is joy, abundance, and visible fruit. Ecclesiastes reminds us that God is the One who makes everything beautiful in its time. Summer is a gift from Him.

Psalm 1 gives us a picture of thriving: a tree planted beside streams of water. It flourishes because it is rooted in the right place. The prosperity we see is not accidental. It is the result of a life anchored in God and fed by His Word.

But summer can mislead us. When life is strong, the temptation is to forget the One who made it so. Comfort whispers, "You're fine. You don't need God like before." Success says, "Look what you've done." Complacency creeps in. Self-reliance replaces Jesus-dependence.

Wrong moves in summer include:

- Drifting from Scripture and prayer because life feels easy
- Taking credit for what God produced
- Hoarding fruit that was meant to nourish others
- Avoiding accountability and assuming "I'm good"
- Allowing comfort to weaken conviction
- Forgetting grace and the Source of every blessing

But God provides right moves to protect the fruit:

- Stay rooted in God's voice through Scripture and prayer
- Practice radical gratitude as daily worship
- Share fruit freely to bless and build others
- Use success to serve, not self-promote
- Live generously with resources and relationships

Summer is a stewardship season. The purpose of flourishing is mission. Fruit is not just for enjoying, but for feeding others. A faithful summer keeps Jesus at the center.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If someone observed only your successes and fruit right now, who or what would they think you trust the most?
2. Where has comfort or ease caused you to drift from spiritual rhythms?
3. What practice keeps your roots deep, and what happens when that slips?
4. Who is God inviting you to nourish with the fruit in your life intentionally?
5. How can the victories you are experiencing become a breakthrough for someone else?

Weekly Challenge

Choose one way to “Make Your Summer Count” this week:

- Give away encouragement, time, testimony, or provision to bless someone
- Reinforce one spiritual rhythm you’ve neglected
- Invite someone into spiritual community
- Share a story of God’s goodness with someone outside the church

Follow up next week.



Closing Prayer

Jesus, You are the Source of every blessing and the One who causes growth. Help us stay planted in Your Word and dependent on Your Spirit. May our fruit bring life to others and glory to You. Keep us faithful in every season. Amen.