

Northwest 2020: Welcome to the Produce Aisle

Pastor Paul Springer | John 15:8-17
October 7, 2018 | LIFE Groups Fall Cycle: Week 4 of 9

Personal Connection (25 minutes)

Icebreaker

Do you currently play any team sports, or have you played any team sports in the past? How did your personal victories help your team succeed?

Sharing Christ and Praying for Each Other

Has the Lord put anyone in particular on your heart lately to share Christ with? Share with your LIFE Group.

Have you gained new insight into a matter that's been on your heart lately? If so, was it consistent with what you know about God from scripture or who you've experienced him to be?

Review Last Sunday's *What Now?*

Be intentional in seeking the Lord in all your relationships; whether it's opening yourself up to new people, growing in deeper relationships, or focusing on healing and mending barriers, Christ is at the center of it all. It is through him that his Good News is shared and that we live our faith in action and love.

Digging Deeper (30 minutes)

This Week's Key Concept:

It is a great privilege to abide in Christ and bear fruit for the Father's glory!

Read John 15:8-17

Q1. What does Jesus mean when he commands us to bear fruit? How does the imagery that Christ uses in these verses relate to your relationship to him?

Q2. In verse 9, Jesus says to abide in his love. What does it look like in your life to abide in Christ's love? How does this happen?

Q3. How does joy in the Lord help you to live out his commandments to love each other as he loves us?

Q4. Reread verse 15. In this context, what is the difference between servant obedience and friend obedience?

Q5. How has Jesus been a close friend to you during your time as a believer? How has his friendship and love changed how you see yourself and others?

Q6. Share an experience with your LIFE Group in which you showed love to another believer during a difficult time. How did the Lord strengthen you to be able to do this?

Impact Questions

Q1. What would it look like in your personal life, to lay down your life out of love for someone else?

Q2. What are some of the ways you can practice sacrificial love, both within the church and outside its walls?

Q3. Do you have any last thoughts on our Mission and Vision statements? (*See below*) Please share your thoughts with the group.

Q4. Regarding our Vision statement, what would it look like for the church body at Northwest to bear fruit?

Mission Statement: *“The mission of Northwest is to help more and more people become passionate worshippers and gifted servants of Jesus Christ.”* **Vision Statement:** *“Northwest strives to develop leaders, equip families, and foster relationships that thrive in Jesus Christ.”*

What now? (15 minutes)

Prayerfully consider how you can be involved in the Mission and Vision of Northwest. Worshipping the Lord with passion and bringing glory to the Lord through our spiritual gifts is something that is for EVERYONE! The Lord will provide all the tools we need — not only to become more passionate in our worship and service, but to reach out to others in sharing the gospel. He commands us to bear fruit and to love each other. Pray to the Lord that you will obediently follow his lead as he paves the way before us.

Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Please lift up any prayer requests your LIFE Group petitions. Please pray not only for our church at Northwest as we seek to strengthen our body of believers, but for the surrounding churches within our community and all across the globe. Please also pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who currently suffer unthinkable hardships for sharing the gospel. Give praise and gratitude that we still live in a country that allows us to share our faith openly and that the Lord would continue to allow us to do so.

Sermon Notes: