
Summer's Lessons

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Services from July 24 & 25, 2010

1921 New Salem Road, Hwy 99
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Objective

Taking advantage of the season we are in to embrace the fruits of the Spirit that will bring good things to our lives.

Ice Breaker

[Small Group Leader chooses one]

Share with the group your favorite summer job.

Have you ever won a trophy? Share your experience.

Practical Application

Fruit in Season

Galatians 5:19-24 (NIV)

¹⁹ *The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.*

For those people who belong to Jesus what is required to do with the sinful nature? What two emotions are companions to the sinful nature? What are the fruits of the Spirit? According to verse 23b are there any boundaries in embracing the fruits of the Spirit? ...Discuss.

Role of Cultivation

Have you ever planted a garden? What are some ways that you ensured the health of your plants? List a few ways that you can cultivate the fruits of the Spirit.

Attitudes & expectations

1 Peter 4:12-13 (NIV)

¹² *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice that you*

participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

Why did Peter say “don’t be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering”? What is our response to be and why? How can our attitude during trials affect the outcome?

Review the fruits of the Spirit...has there been a trial in which you gained victory by choosing one or more of the fruits? What emotions protested as you made the decision to cultivate your Godly nature?

Cooperate with the Season

John 9:3-4 (NIV)

³ *“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.*

There are seasons spiritually when God places opportunities before us that are greater than at other seasons. Why is timing important to recognize when related to planting? What happens when you plant too early or too late? What happens when you harvest too early or too late? Can you identify the season you are in?

Overcoming the Elements

Amos 4:13 (NIV)

¹³ *He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals his thoughts to man, he who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth--the Lord God Almighty is his name.*

Just like air-conditioning combats the hot summer heat, meditating on the character of God can bring a refreshing to us when we feel powerless. Read the above scripture and tell the group one of the characteristics of God that personally uplifts you and why.

Jonah 4:1-11 (NIV)

¹ *But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord, “O Lord, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a*

gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.³ Now, O Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."⁴ But the Lord replied, "Have you any right to be angry?"⁵ Jonah went out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city.⁶ Then the Lord God provided a vine and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the vine.⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the vine so that it withered.⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?" "I do," he said. "I am angry enough to die."¹⁰ But the Lord said, "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight.¹¹ But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

Why was Jonah displeased with his calling? What was the Lord's response? Despite the condition of Jonah's heart the Lord used him anyway to spare a city. What lessons about God can we learn from this?

The following are observations about God's character from this scripture. Read each and then discuss why these are valuable to Jonah and to us.

- God's compassion for people
- God's power in the Earth
- God's concern for our character
- God's power does not supersede our choices

Has God ever given you an opportunity that you did not want to take? If so, did you reluctantly do what He was calling you to do? Did this help you to not resist God the next time?

A Tremendous Expression of Life

Matthew 8:1-3 (NIV)

¹ *When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him.² A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.*

What did the man do and say as he approached Jesus? What was Jesus' response to the man? With

little knowledge of the person of Jesus Christ the man humbled himself and believed Jesus could heal him. Where do you need the "Tremendous Life of Jesus" to intervene for you?

Conclusion

This summer let's cooperate with the Spirit of God, investing our time and energy into behaviors that you know will cultivate the fruits of the Spirit.

Turn it Up a Notch

9 Fruits of the Spirit:

- *Love*
- *Joy*
- *Peace*
- *Patience*
- *Kindness,*
- *Goodness*
- *Faithfulness*
- *Gentleness*
- *Self-control*

Circle the fruit or fruits of the Spirit that you would like to intentionally cultivate during this season. Pray and ask for the help of the Holy Spirit as you begin.

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