



together
Life is better connected.
with friends
in circles
around a table
laughing

Digging Deeper

Life is Better Connected

Week of May 27, 2018

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read John 15:1-5, Galatians 5:22-23

Connectedness is better with others when we are first connected to God. Prior to being crucified, Jesus shared with his disciples how important it was to stay connected to God. He explained that he is the grapevine. As the gardener, God cuts off the unproductive branch to promote the production of good fruit. These are the nine fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Any branch or area of our lives that does not produce these good fruits needs to be pruned either by ourselves or by God. We discover these areas through being in God's presence and through self-examination. This then prepares us for the inevitable storms that will come into our lives. It's time to find your place of presence in God.

Pray

Jesus, we are busy and our lives are often chaotic. Through the storms we need you and we need to be connected to you every day. Guide us to action to purposefully take time to close our eyes and clear our minds and breathe you in deeply allowing your love, peace and joy to fill us and to identify the dead branches needing pruning.

Getting Started

- Share the details of the most chaotic news story you have heard in the past week or two.
- Tell about a chaotic experience you have had in your own life.

Digging Deeper

1. How do you stop and step out of the chaos? Why is important to find time to be in the presence of God?
2. When God placed Adam and Eve in the garden what tasks did he give them and why is that important to us?
3. We know in our minds that God is always with us, yet we often fail to apply this to our lives. Why is that? What can be done to change this?
4. Do you think the disciples understood the warning Jesus gave them the night before he was crucified? Why or why not?
5. Read Galatians 5:22-23. The world and the Bible define "good fruit" differently. Compare and contrast the world's good fruit and the Fruit of the Spirit.
6. We seem to want more and more of things in our lives. Compare that to what God wants from us. Are these usually the same or different things?
7. Why is it so challenging to chop off the dead branches that prevent the production of good fruit?
8. What will be the outcome if we listen to the warning Jesus gave his disciples and apply it to our lives?

Living Jesus

To acquire the Fruit of the Spirit and to identify the dead branches in your life, you need to be connected to God. What impact would a daily connection with God have on your life? Take a few minutes each day and close your eyes, bow your head, breathe deeply, and forget about the chaos and craziness in your life. Breathe in and think "Jesus"; breathe out and think "love"; breathe in "Jesus" again and breathe out thinking "joy"; and breathe in "Jesus" again and breathe out thinking "peace". Try this each day and see what changes and what branches are identified!

What's Your Story?

Share your experience with the pruning of dead branches in your life and whether you did the pruning or if God did it.

Share your personal story with us [here](#) or online. Go to MySevernRun.com and choose Share Your Story under Forms.