

Summary

This Mother's Day sermon focuses on the concept of fruitfulness in the Christian life, drawing from Jesus' teaching about the vine and branches in John 15. The pastor emphasizes that just as mothers invest in their children's development and want them to be fruitful, productive people, God as our Father desires us to become fruitful Christlike disciples. Using the analogy of Jesus as the true vine, the Father as the gardener, and believers as the branches, the message explores how we must remain connected to Christ to bear fruit. The sermon identifies two primary fruit-bearing activities: evangelism (making disciples) and showing self-giving love. The pastor explains that evangelism is not just leading someone in a sinner's prayer but includes every positive interaction between believers and non-believers. Similarly, discipleship happens through everyday life interactions, following Jesus' model of simply doing life with people. Love is presented as the 'sap' that flows from the vine through the branches, enabling fruit production. The message concludes with two important questions for self-reflection: What competing branches should be removed from our lives, and how can we have a better connection with the vine?

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You this morning with grateful hearts, especially as we celebrate the mothers among us. We thank You for the example of investment and care that mothers show, and we recognize that You, as our perfect Father, care for our spiritual development in the same way. As we gather to study Your Word today, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us. Help us to be receptive to Your Spirit's leading and to honestly examine our lives in light of Your truth. May we leave this time more committed to bearing fruit for Your glory. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one thing your mother always said to you growing up that you now find yourself saying to others?

Key Verses

- John 15:1-8
- John 14:16-18

- Matthew 28:18-20
- John 13:34-35
- Luke 15

Questions

- What does it mean to you personally to be a 'fruitful' Christian, and how do you measure spiritual fruitfulness in your own life?
- The sermon mentions that evangelism includes every positive interaction between believers and non-believers. How does this broader definition of evangelism change your perspective on witnessing?
- Jesus said that apart from Him we can do 'nothing.' What are some ways we try to bear fruit in our own strength rather than remaining connected to Christ?
- The pastor described love as the 'sap' that flows from the vine through the branches. How have you experienced God's love flowing through you to others?
- What are some 'competing branches' in your life - activities that might look good but don't actually bear spiritual fruit?
- How does Jesus' model of discipleship (simply doing life with people) differ from more formal approaches to making disciples?
- The Father's role as gardener involves both pruning and nurturing. Can you share about a time when God 'pruned' something from your life that ultimately led to greater fruitfulness?
- What practical steps can you take this week to strengthen your connection to the vine (Jesus) so that you can bear more fruit?

Life Application

This week, identify one 'competing branch' in your life - an activity or commitment that may look good but isn't bearing spiritual fruit - and prayerfully consider removing it. At the same time, choose one specific way to strengthen your connection with Jesus (such as daily prayer, Scripture reading, or serving others) and commit to practicing it consistently for the next seven days.

Key Takeaways

- Christlike disciples are called to bear fruit, which primarily includes evangelism (making disciples) and showing self-giving love
- Evangelism is a process that includes every positive interaction between believers and non-believers, not just formal witnessing
- We must remain intimately connected to Jesus (the vine) to bear any spiritual fruit - apart from Him we can do nothing
- The Father as gardener actively prunes our lives, removing competing branches that don't bear fruit so we can be more productive
- Love is the driving force that flows from Christ through us, compelling us to serve others and share the gospel naturally

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this reminder that You are the vine and we are the branches. Help us to remain closely connected to You so that Your love can flow through us to others. Give us wisdom to identify the competing branches in our lives that need to be pruned away, and courage to let go of activities that aren't bearing fruit for Your kingdom. May our lives be marked by the fruit of evangelism and love, not for our own glory, but for the glory of our Father in heaven. Help us to be faithful disciples who make disciples, showing Your love to a world that desperately needs to know You. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.