

Answers: Lesson THREE: CLI Leadership Bible Study

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 3: Fruit and Leadership

Lesson 3: Fruit and Leadership (Day One) *Real and Spiritual Fruit*

Read Numbers 23:19 and answer questions 1-2:

God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? Numbers 23:19

1. Why can we trust God's words?

Because God always tells the truth and He does what He says He will do.

2. Since God declares His love for you, do you expect Him to act in your behalf (benefit)?
Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Explain your answer:

Personal Answer but hopefully the answer is yes because God says that He loves us and He always tells the truth. He will act on our behalf because that is what you do when you love someone – you help him or her.

3. Think of someone who dislikes you and has harmed you either emotionally or physically. Would you be willing to suffer a painful and degrading death for that person? Why or Why not?

Personal Answer

4. Now imagine yourself as a bowl of fruit. Picture what people see when they look at you. Consider what flavors they would taste in talking with you. Reflect on how others would rate the way that you treat them. Ask God for one thing you can do to improve your character so that you can connect with more people. Write what God tells you and how we may pray for you:

Personal Answer

Definition: Fruit (figurative or metaphorical¹) is defined in this lesson as loving and righteous character traits, deeds and actions that are produced by a personal relationship with Jesus and the empowerment of the Spirit.

¹ Figurative means the word(s) are not literal but are symbolic in nature. A metaphor is a figure of speech that compares one thing in terms of another.

Read John 15:5 and answer questions 5-7:

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

5. When Jesus says that He is the vine (grape vine), is He speaking figuratively or literally? (Circle Answer)

6. What kind of fruit is Jesus talking about: figurative or literal? (Circle One)

7. Are you able to live a fruitful life apart or separated from Jesus Christ? Yes No (Circle One)

Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you.¹¹ The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity-- in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground-- in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you. Deuteronomy 28:10-11

8. Read Deuteronomy 28:11-12. Who is ultimately responsible or in control of the literal fruit (crops) and the figurative fruit (descendants, rewards, etc.)?

God

9. What does abiding or living in Christ mean to you

Personal Answer – but means to obey Jesus by walking in all His ways and to depending on Him daily.

10. How are you going to remain, dwell and live in Christ?

Personal Answer – but suggestions: pray, read the Bible, accountability partner, be in company of Jesus lovers.

11. Personal Application: Read and meditate on John, chapter 15. While meditating on this passage, ask the Lord Jesus for a fruitful assignment to honor Him. Please share how the Lord directed you and what happened:

Personal Answer

Lesson 3: Fruit and Leadership (Day Two) Different Kinds of Fruit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Galatians 5:22-26

12. Read Galatians 5:22-26 and list the fruit of the Spirit:

1. love 2. joy 3. peace 4. patience 5. kindness 6. goodness 7. faithfulness 8. gentleness
9. self-control

13. Would you like your friends to have these qualities? Yes No (Circle one) Why?

Personal Answer

14. Out of the nine fruits of the Spirit, which do you have the most trouble in displaying? Why?

Personal Answer

15. How would you like us to pray for you in regard to the fruit of the Spirit?

“Bible Minister” – please make note of prayer and pray as the Holy Spirit leads. Please pray for this person for at least five days.

16. Why is it necessary to mention that displaying your good character is *for* the glory of God?

Personal Answer – but from this lesson:

“Displaying good character is really the same as any other good work. There is always the danger that we will try and turn the attention on ourselves. “Look at how kind and good I am!” instead of “Look at how kind and good Jesus is!” Then there is the danger of works of the flesh. That is, you practice good character (work) to earn favor or to get something from God or others.”

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Proverbs 4:23
(Note: wellspring means source, fountain and origin)

17. Read Proverbs 4:23. How will you guard your heart?

Personal Answer – but suggestions if they need it: obey God, pray, read the Bible, read Christian books, listen to Christian music, accountability partner, be in company of Jesus lovers.

so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-- to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:10-11

18. Read and meditate on Philippians 1:10-11. What is God telling you about the “fruit of character?”

Personal Answer

19. Write and explain what happened when you practiced “displaying love” for the glory of God.

Personal Answer

Lesson 3: Fruit and Leadership (Day Three) The Fruit of Right Action: Deeds

Read Acts 10:38 and answer questions 20-22:

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.
Acts 10:38

20. God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power

21. What did Jesus, our Leader, go around doing with the Holy Spirit and power?

Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil.

22. God was with Jesus; is He with you? Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Why or Why not?

Personal Answer

I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness; I have not said to Jacob's descendants, 'Seek me in vain.' I, the LORD, speak the truth; I declare what is right. Isaiah 45:19
(vain means unsuccessful or not having the intended result)

(Underlining in the answer sheets are for the Bible Minister’s benefit in reviewing lessons. Any underlining in the Lesson, which is different than the answer sheets, is for emphasis and the learner’s benefit.)

23. Read Isaiah 45:19. How does the LORD speak and declare (proclaim, announce)?

In the open, in truth and righteousness

Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.
Revelation 15:4

24. Read Revelation 15:4. What is the adjective used in describing God’s acts?

Righteous

25. Read Job 38-42 in your Bible. What are at least two things that these chapters tell you of

God's righteousness?

1. God created and designed all
2. God has all wisdom and knowledge
3. All good things come from God
4. God is just and man should not try to discredit His justice or condemn God to justify himself (Job 40:8)
5. The world is ordered by God and He decides what is right

26. How could you help someone who feels that life or circumstances are not right or fair (Job 38-42 & Isaiah 55:8-9)?

Personal Answer but here are some ideas taken from this lesson:

“God is sovereign and in control of all things including Satan. There is no denying that God has *allowed* the event or circumstance that has transpired (happened) in our lives. God takes everything into consideration when our life has been played out on this earth (Luke 16:19-31).

God is righteous and fair. Our perspective (viewpoint) is limited but God's is eternal. He desires our everlasting good and will work out all events and circumstances in our (believers) lives to make us like Christ Jesus (Romans 8:28-29).”

filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-- to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:11

27. Read Philippians 1:11. Who is the source of your righteousness?

Jesus Christ

Even as a Christ follower, Paul says in Romans 7:18: *I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.*

28. Do you ever get frustrated like Paul and wonder why you cannot carry out the good works that you would like to do? Yes No Sometimes (Circle one) Explain.

Personal Answer

Here are notes from the lesson:

Paul is saying that nothing good lives in his sinful nature and from this nature he cannot carry out good. He must rely on Jesus to carry out his good works and it is a process (2 Corinthians 3:18). Through Jesus we receive a new nature and become a new creation. However, we do not lose our sin nature and this can sometimes cause a struggle within us.

No one has the power to overcome his or her sinful nature in their own strength, but must rely upon the Holy Spirit. This is an important concept for the Christian leader to grasp. Otherwise, we may live in a state of frustration and defeat trying to work in our own strength. Knowing this

truth of relying on Jesus and His righteousness will allow us to help others overcome the obstacles and heartaches they may face in desiring to do what is good, but not carrying it out.

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." Romans 1:17

29. According to Romans 1:17, how do you know that you are righteous?

God says in His Word that we are righteous when we place our faith in Jesus Christ. The gospel or good news is that Jesus died for our sins and whoever believes or places his or her faith in Him will be declared righteous. Placing faith in Jesus means living and abiding in Him.

Read Romans 8:1-4 and answer questions 30-32:

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.³ For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,⁴ in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:1-4

30. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because (v. 2):

Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

31. How did God condemn sin in sinful man (v.3)?

God condemned sin by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering

32. Why did God condemn sin in sinful man (v.4)?

So that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us and so that we can live in accordance with the Spirit and not live according to the sinful nature.

Read Philippians 2:12-13 and answer questions 33-36:

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed-- not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence-- continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Philippians 2:12-13

33. Who helps you choose God's plan for your life and act accordingly (v.13)?

God

34. If God is working in you for His purpose, what is your responsibility (v. 12)?

To obey God and to work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

35. Why does Paul say *to work out your salvation with fear and trembling* (v.12)? (Read Luke 3:8-14, 1 Corinthians 2:3, 9:24-27, 2 Corinthians 7:15, Hebrews 9:6-12)

Paul is saying that if you are saved, you should be laboring for God and His Kingdom by being obedient and reverent (extreme respect). He is saying this to make sure believers understand that salvation is not a one time event (or one time prayer) but it is a life devoted to serving the Lord.

36. What would you tell someone who is discouraged in his or her ability to produce fruit?

Personal Answer but the following is from this lesson:

“God has the plan! He is in charge of our good works. Ask God each day for your assignments. It does not matter how small or insignificant the action may seem, it is our prompt obedience that counts. You will be commended on how you follow Jesus and judged on how you follow your own plan and desires. Remember a simple act of kindness done with the right, humble motivation warms our Father’s heart while “big” deeds with wrong, prideful motivation does not.

Another aspect of discouragement over good works is incorrect expectations from what God has purposed. We may have misinterpreted what God wants us to do and need to pray for wisdom and direction. There is also the possibility of unconfessed sin that God would like addressed.”

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. 2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense-- Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 1 John 1:9-2:1 (Confess - to acknowledge, declare, admit, say plainly)

37. Read 1 John 1:9-2:1. As a believer what action are you supposed to take if you sin?

Confess sins

First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds. Acts 26:20 (repentance - change of heart, turning from one's sins, change of way)

38. Read Acts 26:20. Paul says that he preached to Jews and Gentiles alike that after they had repented that they should prove their _____ **repentance** _____ by their _____ **deeds** _____

Jesus said in Matthew 6:1-2:

Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.

However Jesus also said in Matthew 5:15-16:

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

39. Mathew 6:1-2 and Matthew 5:15-16 seem to be in direct opposition to each other. Explain how a Christian leader is careful not to do righteous acts before men and let men see your deeds?

Jesus is talking about our heart or motivation of our “acts of righteousness” or good deeds. We are not to do them for our own glory but for God’s honor. People should see our good deeds and praise God not people.

40. Write your memory verse without looking at Colossians 3:23-24:

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

41. What would you say to someone who says he or she is a Christian, seems to be living a clean life but cannot remember a specific time of turning to Christ and turning away from self or sin?

Personal Answer but might share own personal testimony. Without being judgmental, ask caring questions about their relationship with Christ and share Bible verses such as Romans 10:9-11. This may help them to see that Jesus has been missing from their life.

42. Write your personal testimony (proof) including what your life was like before Christ, how you met Christ and how your life has changed. This should be a short account that could be given in 30-60 seconds. Different circumstances may call for a fuller and more complete story.

Personal Answer

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

43. Read Matthew 28:18-19. Jesus said, “All ___ **authority** ___ in ___ **heaven** ___ and on ___ **earth** ___ has been ___ **given** ___ to me. Therefore go and ___ **make** ___ ___ **disciples** of all ___ **nations** ___ baptizing them in the ___ **name** ___ of the ___ **Father** ___ and of the ___ **Son** ___ and of the ___ **Holy** ___ ___ **Spirit** ___ and teaching them to ___ **obey** ___ ___ **everything** I have commanded you.”

But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.⁸ When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:⁹ in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me;¹⁰ in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;¹¹ and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. John 16:7-11

44. Read John 16:7-11. Who is responsible for convicting men, women and children of their guilt in regard to sin? Holy Spirit (Counselor)

Read Romans 10:13-17 and answer questions 45-47:

for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"¹⁶ But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?"¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Romans 10:13-17

45. Who has sent you to make the gospel known (proclaim, preach)?

Personal Answer – but should be Jesus Christ, if He is their Lord.

46. How are your feet described in Romans 10:15?

Beautiful

47. Did everyone accept the good news (verse 16)? Yes **No** (Circle One)

48. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you an opportunity to make Christ known today.

Describe the Spirit's leading and result:

Personal Answer

Lesson 3: Fruit and Leadership (Day Five) The Fruit of Lips

Read Hebrews 13:15 and answer questions 49-50:

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise-- the fruit of lips that confess his name. Hebrews 13:15 (Confess - to acknowledge, declare, praise)

49. How often should we offer praise (honor, tribute) to God?

Continually; all the time

50. When we speak good and truthful things about God, how are our lips described?

Fruit of lips

He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain-- first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

Mark 4:26-29

51. Read Mark 4:26-29. What is Jesus telling us in this parable about God partnering with us?

Personal Answer but - We are responsible for obeying God by sowing seeds into the fruits of character, deeds, converts and praise. God is responsible for the resulting crop. We work together.

52. Is there anything that you are personally waiting for and trying to be patient in the Lord?

Personal Answer

53. Pray and ask God to show you with whom he is working and how you can help? Would God like you to show a kindness, do a good deed, develop a friendship, share the gospel, or speak out in praise to God? Please write summary of what God showed you and how you obeyed:

Personal Answer

Next: Lesson 4 - The Presence of God

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