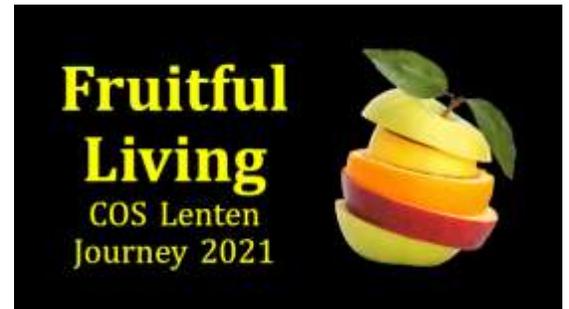


Discussion Guide for Fruit Group Cluster #1
2021 Fruitful Living Lenten Journey
Intro, Love, Joy
Pastor Fritz

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” Galatians 5.22-23

- THANKS EVERYONE for making time to be part of what God is doing in our Fruitful Living Series!
- Thank you, leader, for pulling this Fruit Group together.



Let's Get Started! Let's go around and share our names and our favorite fruit.

Opening prayer: *Thanks God for gathering us together for these fun and holy 30 minutes. We know our world can be pretty sour at times. Thanks for your plan to use each of us to sweeten it with the Holy Spirit's help. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Discuss:

1. Life in general can be tough. The pandemic has intensified challenges, often serving as a greenhouse for the weeds of worry. As your group gets to know each other, have each person share their name, again, and this time very quickly share one cultural challenge they think many people face.
2. In his sermon this week, Pastor Fritz shared passages like Romans 8.11 and 1 Corinthians 3.16 that indicate the Holy Spirit dwells in us. What's your reaction to this news? What are some implications?
3. Paul identifies in Galatians 5.22-23 nine amazing factors which can brighten anyone's life. (***Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control***). Why do you think Paul calls them "fruit"?
4. The first fruit Paul specifies is "love." In 1 Corinthians 13, (NIV version) we're told love offers several positive attributes. *"⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails."* Have a few folks share which dimension of love they try to help flourish.

5. The Wednesday devotional speaker, Linda Volckmann, spoke of the second fruit, "joy." What did Linda's comments on joy inspire for you?
6. Does joy instantaneously happen in reaction to events? Or can joy be fostered somehow?
7. Why is it valuable that we consider our roles to be stewards of "Fruitful Living" in the world today, with the Spirit's partnership?

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, thanks again for these holy moments and the new friends in Christ I've made tonight. Be with us this week. We give you permission to use our lives for your purposes and pleasure. It's cool to think that you want to partner with us in making life less of a jungle and more a garden for those in our lives, even if in little ways. Because little ways add up to big differences. Guard and guide us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Thanks everyone!
See you next week!