

Discussion Guide for Fruit Group Cluster #2
2021 Fruitful Living Lenten Journey
Peace & Patience
Pastor Fritz

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, 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! Last week we shared our names and favorite fruit. This week, let's share our name and a favorite "place of peace."

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. In her sermon, Pastor Miriam shared how at Christmas her mother asked for some "peace and quiet." Also, how Proverbs 17.1 (NLV version) states, "Better a dry crust eaten in peace than a house filled with feasting—and conflict." Share your thoughts.
2. At COS, as with many congregations, we often start the service with an order of confession and forgiveness, followed by worshipers moving around the sanctuary to hug or shake hands and say "the peace of the Lord." Not "joy of Lord" or "love of the Lord." What's going on here?
3. Sometimes we hear fellow citizens chant, "No justice, no peace." Does anything about that refrain rub you the wrong way? Does anything about it ring true?
4. In John 14, as Pastor Miriam referenced, Jesus prepares his disciples for his departure by telling them, "My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." Playing with Jesus' phrase, "I do not give as the world gives," how is Jesus' gift of peace perhaps different than the world's?
5. Last week, we delved into the promise that this "Fruitful Living" strategy is NOT about just trying to be better people, but instead, trusting more a partnership with the Holy Spirit who lives in us, according to Romans 8.11 and 1 Corinthians 3.16. Apparently, God's plan

is for Christians to joyfully cooperate with God to bear good fruit wherever they are. In the last seven days since we talked about that idea, did you find yourself reflecting on this promise that you “do life” with the Spirit? If so, how?

6. The Wednesday devotional speaker, Linda Barbour, spoke of the fourth fruit, “patience.” What did Linda’s comments on patience inspire for you?
7. There’s a funny prayer: “Lord, give me patience. Give it to me NOW!” Could you share with the group one instance in your life where showing more patience might be a gift?
8. Here’s a question from last week, that’s worth discussing again: How would you describe the value of “Fruitful Living” in the world today, with the Spirit’s partnership?
9. Bonus question: Do any of you enjoy strong memories helping you list all nine amazing fruits listed in Galatians 5.22-23 without reading them?

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, thanks again for these holy moments and my “fruit group” friends in Christ. Be with us this week. Steer our schedules so our lives support 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!