

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHY SOME CHRISTIANS AREN'T FRUITFUL

Mark 4:1-20

Parable—Week 1

ICEBREAKER: What's your favorite thing about the Christmas season?

OVERVIEW: God wants you to be a fruitful Christian. But what does it mean to be fruitful, and what must you do to become a fruitful Christian? In this study we will go deeper with why many Christians aren't fruitful, and what you must do to produce more fruit.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. What is a parable?
3. What does it mean to be a fruitful Christian?
4. Why is it important to be a fruitful Christian?
5. Read John 15:1-8 and answer the following questions.
 - a. According to verses 1-2, what does the Father do to help you produce more fruit?
 - b. According to verse five, what must you do to be fruitful?
 - c. What does it mean to "remain" or "abide" in Christ?
 - d. What glorifies God (see verse 8)? Why?

6. Read Mark 4:3-8 and refer to Sunday's sermon for the following questions. The parable is about three soils that aren't fruitful. Why isn't the first soil fruitful? How does this apply to being a fruitful Christian? (See Mark 4:4, 15.)
7. Why isn't the second soil fruitful? How does this apply to being a fruitful Christian? (See Mark 4:5, 16-17.)
8. Why isn't the third soil fruitful? How does this apply to being a fruitful Christian? (See Mark 4:7, 18-19.)
9. What's the most urgent thing you need to do to become more fruitful?

The Last Word: "God prefers fruits of the Spirit over religious nuts." Adrian Rogers