



# REAL CHANGE

Getting to the heart of it.

lincolnberean

## ABIDING: Group Discussion/Personal Reflection Resource

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A. Read John 15:1-11. Note anything you find interesting:

B. Read Galatians 5:19-23. Note anything you find interesting:

### C. Key Assessment: Fruit Inspection

Paul contrasts the sinful nature (traits of character of a person unplugged from the Tree of Life) and the fruit of the Spirit. Another, and very helpful, name for the fruit of the spirit is "the character traits of Christ."

The only way to grow a certain type of fruit is to be that type of tree. Another way to say this is that we are living our lives in the precise manner to be getting the present results. Take a moment and do a ruthless self-inventory. Using the categories and scales listed below rate yourself on the present quality of the fruit growing from your life. Then indicate how one significant other would rate you—if asked to be totally candid — and how you believe God would rate you.

For example:

SAMPLE TRAIT:	1.....2.....3..... <sup>O</sup> 4.....5..... <sup>S</sup> 6..... <sup>G</sup> 7.....8.....9
	(A Little) (A Lot)
<b>S</b> = Self-Rating	<b>O</b> = Other-Rating (How you think a spouse, child, or best friend would rate you)
	<b>G</b> = God-Rating (How God would rate you. Hint: not how he sees you through the eyes of grace, but a "divinely objective" rating.)

#### GOOD FRUIT //

LOVE:	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9
JOY:	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9
PEACE:	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9
PATIENCE:	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9
KINDNESS:	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9
GOODNESS:	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9
FAITHFULNESS:	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9
GENTLENESS:	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9
SELF-CONTROL:	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9

#### BAD FRUIT //

FEAR:	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9
GREED:	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9
SELFISH AMBITION:	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9
ENVY:	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9

**D. Prayerfully answer these questions:**

1. What are your primary obstacles to abiding in God through the day as a branch is connected to a vine?
2. How does John describe the "fruit" that branches are to produce?
3. What must change for the "fruit of the Spirit," the very character of Christ, to be produced in your life?
4. What would it be like to live as a "friend of Jesus?" How might you pursue this tomorrow?
5. What do you do when you get it wrong?