

Chapter 5: Fruitful Discussion Questions

Opening Question: As you consider our culture, how do you observe the pursuit to do more, be more, know more, and produce more?

1. In what ways do we place our identity in our achievements? How do we seek significance in what we do?
2. How does constantly trying to measure up lead to exhaustion? In what areas of your life today do you feel like you'll never be enough?
3. How can a life of striving by our own efforts (rather than abiding in Christ) lead us to both judgment of others and despair in our own life?

4. READ John 15:1-11

- a. According to the passage what does it mean to abide in Jesus?
 - b. When we fail to abide in Jesus, what happens? What do you think it looks like when we attempt to do work for Jesus without abiding in Him?
 - c. How does time with Jesus nourish our soul in a similar way that food and water nourish our body?
 - d. According to verse 11, why does Jesus want us to abide in Him? What is He hoping for in your life, and how does that help you as you think about abiding in Him?
5. Often, we tell ourselves we are too busy to spend time reading the Bible or in prayer. What practical ways can we fight against this tendency? What has helped you carve out time for abiding in the midst of a busy life of doing?

6. READ Proverbs 31:10-31

- a. How does understanding the Proverbs 31 woman as an example to learn from rather than a standard to compare yourself to give you encouragement?
- b. In the midst of all her activity, verse 30 guides us to what fuels her efforts. How does abiding in Jesus leads us to a life of fruitfulness?
- c. One thing that always strikes me about the Proverbs 31 woman is her laughter. In the midst of her busy life, she is a woman of joy. In contrast, how does busyness apart from Jesus lead us to weary work and exhausting effort?

7. **READ GALATIANS 5:22-23** How does this verse shape your understanding of Spirit-filled fruitfulness? How is this type of fruitfulness different than what you usually think of in terms of achievement or success?
8. Consider each of these nine aspects of fruitfulness from Galatians 5:22-23. Which of these do you struggle with the most in the midst of the busyness of doing?
9. As you think back over the chapter, what particular truth resonated with you? How will you live differently in light of that new understanding?