

PBC Growing in Christ

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January 10, 2021

Class Norms

A large, dark wooden cross stands in a field of tall grass. The cross is silhouetted against a sky with soft, golden light from a setting or rising sun. The clouds are scattered and catch the low light, creating a serene and contemplative atmosphere.

- Place your microphone on mute.
- Use the chat room. Located in the upper right of the screen.
- Interact in the class just raise your hand. The instructor will take you off mute.
- Technology may not always work....please be patient.
- God is always in the midst
- Enjoy the class.

Growing in Christ

- Every day is an opportunity to grow in the word.
- Growing in Christ will tackle real life issues, while studying the bible for its answers.
- Examine challenges believers and non-believers face every day.
- Growing in Christ bible study will focus on how Christians face challenges and how the bible addresses these issues.



Growing in Christ

To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)



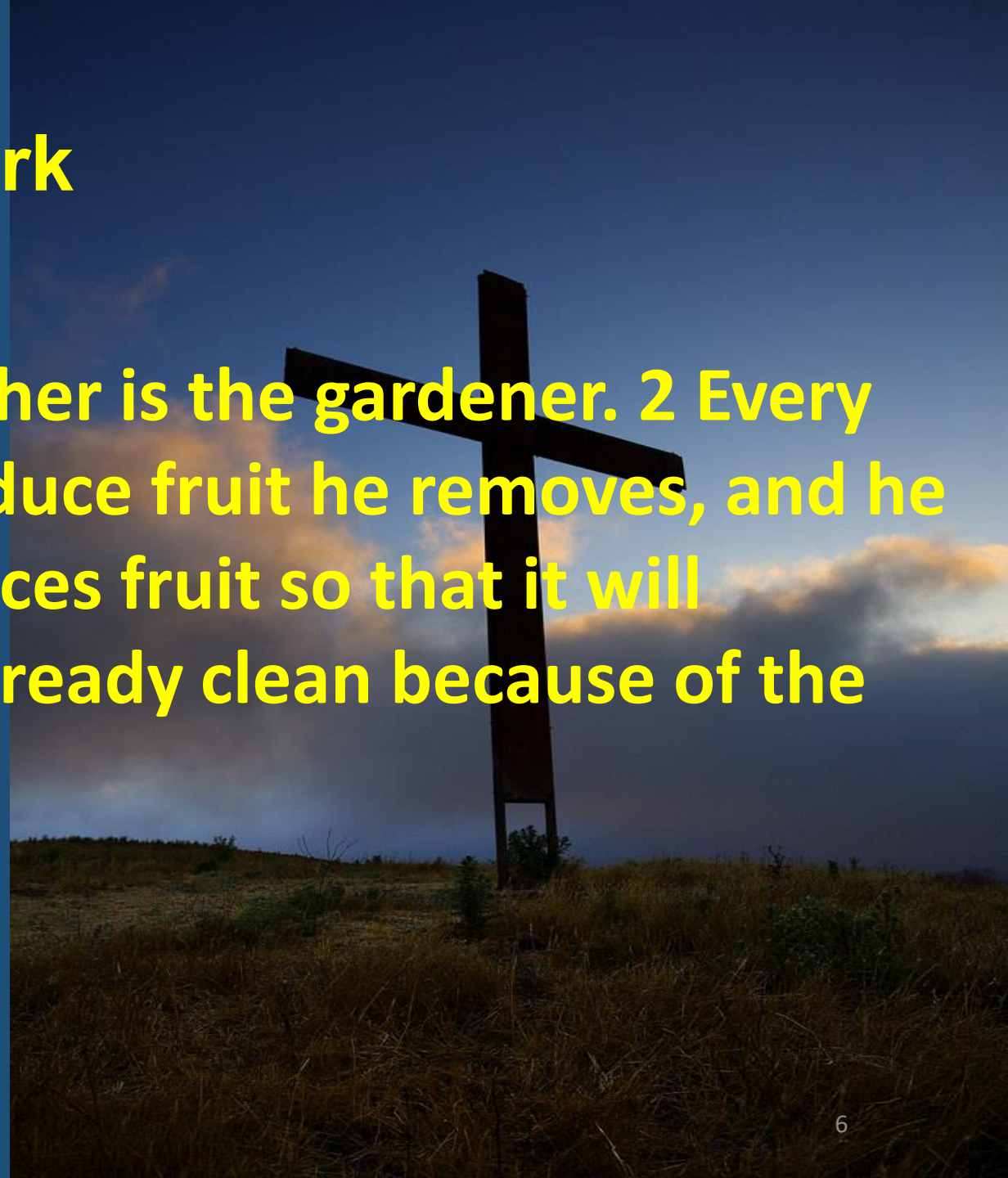


Joining God's Work John 15:1-8

**When has a task looked
bigger than your ability to
get it done?**

Scripture
Joining God's Work
John 15:1-3

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.





Joining God's Work

John 15:1-3

What are some things that God expects of Christ-followers?

What are the dangers in clinging to other vines instead of the true one?

Joining God's Work

John 15:1-3



- Jesus is the vine and God the Father is the gardener who trims and prunes the branches to increase their fruit-bearing capacity.
- The branches are the believer that follow Jesus
- The branches don't decide to bear fruit. If we're connected to the vine, we will bear fruit. It's a natural outcome of being connected to the vine. In His care the Gardener doesn't tolerate non-fruit-bearing branches. If the Father sees a branch that isn't bearing fruit, He prunes it—severs it from the vine.
- Jesus makes a distinction between two kinds of pruning
 - Cutting off branches when branches do not bear fruit
 - Cutting back branches to promotes growth

Scripture

Joining God's Work

John 15:4-5

4 Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.



Joining God's Work

John 15:4-5

What does it mean to be connected to Jesus?

What makes remaining in Christ so difficult sometimes?

Joining God's Work

John 15:4-5



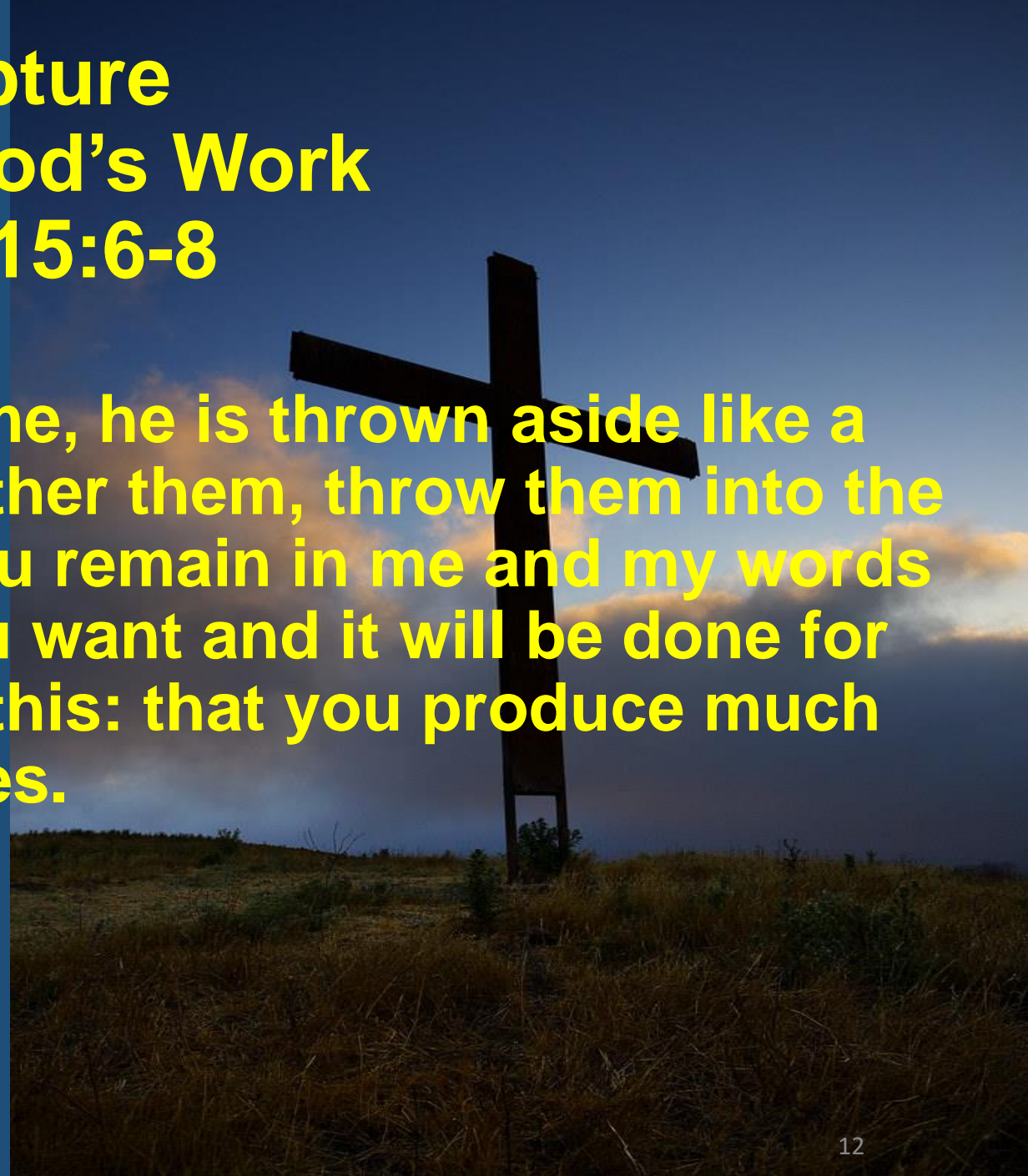
- Remaining in Christ requires us to be fully connected to Jesus moment by moment.
- “Fruit” is not limited to soul winning.
 - Galatians 5:22-24. 22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Scripture

Joining God's Work

John 15:6-8

6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.





Joining God's Work John 15:6-8

What does this passage teach us about our relationship with God?

Why is it so important that we produce fruit?

Joining God's Work

John 15:6-8



- Once the branch is separated from the vine, it is worthless—it becomes dead, brittle, dry twigs. The branches shrivel up and the gardener gathers them up to be burned in the fire. Unconnected branches are good for nothing.
 - Psalm 1 contains a parallel metaphor: The one who walks with God is fruitful, “like a tree planted beside flowing streams,” but the ungodly “are like chaff that the wind blows away” (Psalm 1:3-4).
 - The contrast is strong, and it makes a point. Instead of living a life that goes up in smoke, those connected to Jesus bring God glory. We bear fruit so that God is glorified.
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GROWING IN CHRIST IN ACTION

JANUARY 10, 2021

- **Turn to Christ.** In order to bear fruit, we must be connected to the True Vine. If you aren't connected to Christ, or you are unsure about your relationship with Christ, speak with your group leader or a pastor in your church.
- **Abide in Christ.** Prayerfully consider the fruit of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5:22-23. Write down any areas where you aren't producing spiritual fruit. Use a Bible concordance to look up other occurrences of the words you wrote and consider how abiding in Christ leads to these fruits.
- **Rely on Christ.** Are you relying on your own strength or the strength of the Lord? God doesn't expect us to produce fruit on our own. In fact, we can't. If you're

Final thoughts about Joining God's Work



- **Being fruitful for Christ is not a synonym for success. Abiding in Christ doesn't guarantee you will reach all your life goals or be successful in any worldly sense. The fruit we produce in His power is fruitful in the way it glorifies God.**
- **God is glorified, not just because the fruit is produced, but because the fruit-bearing branches depend on Him no matter what. When we produce spiritual fruit, we glorify God and prove that we are Jesus' disciples.**
- **As we live in Christ and live for Christ, we will bear fruit—and God will be glorified.**

Resources

- Gal. 5:22-24
- God's Son (1John 4:15)
- 2Peter 1:5-8
- BIBLE-Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth
- Bible.com



Next Week: January 24, 2021
Created for a Purpose

Jeremiah 1:4-10

What would a personality test
reveal about you?



God Bless You!

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