

# HOW TREAT PEOPLE



## Week Three: Solid – Study Guide

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We're all surrounded by the consequences of our actions. These consequences are the "fruit" of our life that show the "root" in our hearts. The question is not, "Am I producing fruit?" The question is, "What kind of fruit am I producing?" As you prayerfully go through these questions, and the scripture they're based on, take some time to think about the fruit you're producing.

### Where Am I Today

- 1) What you say (especially when you're upset) is one of the greatest signs of the fruit in your life. When you're upset, what is likely to come out of your mouth?

### Into the Bible

- 2) All of us produce fruit (results) in our life. Jesus clearly taught in **Luke 6:43-45** that those results come from the content of our hearts. Everything we do gives others a glimpse of our heart and character. With what kind of heart does Jesus equate "good fruit" and "bad fruit"? What might "good fruit" and "bad fruit" look like?

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- 3) In **Luke 6:46-49** Jesus wraps up the Sermon on the Plain. He does two things at once with His parable. First of all, He gives a wake-up call to those who don't think about the foundation of their lives. Second, He sums up that He and His teaching are the rock on which to build your life. According to Jesus, how do your actions reveal whom you follow? How does the leader you follow actually reveal the foundation of your life? What makes the outcome different for a person whose life has the proper foundation?

#### How Does This Apply?

- 4) When you look around at the results (fruit) that your life has produced, what do you see? What are some fruits that you're happy with? What are some fruits you would rather see go away? If you haven't already, take an inventory of your fruit. Even the healthiest apple trees produce the occasional rotten apple. The good news is that no matter how bad of a tree you are, Jesus can truly change you from the inside out. It takes time, community, confession, and lots of grace, but God can change rotten trees into vitally healthy ones that produce incredible fruit. What are you hoping to see change about your behavior as God changes you? Your language? Your attitude? Your outlook on life?
  
- 5) Right before and after the Sermon on the Plain, Jesus served and healed people. In other words, He practiced what He preached. Chances are you're not going to be able to heal people the way Jesus did, but what are some ways that you can serve people the way He did in your everyday life?

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#### Continue Learning on Your Own

- 6) Jesus used a lot of agricultural imagery in His parables. There was nothing particularly holy about farming, but He was speaking to people who would have understood the concept quickly and easily. He used debt in many of His parables for the same reason; He had a great knack for using topics people were familiar with.

Paul used the same imagery as Jesus when he taught on the fruit of the Spirit. Read about the fruit of the Spirit and compare that to Jesus' teaching at the Sermon on the Plain. What are some similarities? What are some differences?

Read **Galatians 5:22-23; Luke 6:43-45**