

Harvest Season

2025-01-06 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



John 4:31-34

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

The disciples brought Jesus lunch and he told them: I have food you know nothing about. His food was doing the will of the Father. Pastor Matt opened the harvest season with the same invitation. Fasting is forgetting something of lesser importance for a season so you can focus on the thing of most importance. Give up something that has been quietly eating your time and hand that space to God. Because confessing Christ is the starting line, not the finish. However long you have been at this, there is something deeper with God you have not experienced yet.

To get started

- What takes up time in your week that you would struggle to give up for three weeks?

Looking back at the message

This launched the prayer and fasting season. Some in the group will have done it and some will not.

- 1 Pastor Matt defined fasting as forgetting something of lesser importance for a season to focus on the thing of most importance. If you fasted this season, what would you set down?
- 2 Pastor Matt said no matter how long you have followed Jesus, there is something deeper with God you have not experienced yet. Does that land on you as hope or as pressure?
- 3 Pastor Matt described his early faith as built entirely on what other people told him about God, because he had never opened a Bible himself. What was your faith built on at the start? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 4:31-38 and John 15:1-8 together. Both are about being connected to a source.

- 4 Read John 4:31-34. The disciples offer Jesus food and he says he has food they know nothing about. What is he actually talking about?
- 5 Read John 15:1-8. What does Jesus say is the one condition for bearing fruit, and what happens to a branch without it?
- 6 Pastor Matt described a tree that produces nothing because it is not connected to anything. Where do you feel disconnected right now?
- 7 Read Galatians 5:25. If we live by the Spirit, what does Paul say comes next? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Fasting is unfamiliar to many. Let people ask basic questions without embarrassment.

- 8 Have you ever fasted from anything, food, a screen, a habit? What actually happened?
- 9 What is currently getting your time that is not getting you anywhere?
- 10 Pastor Matt said most people walk into a church because they want peace and a purpose they have not found yet. What are you actually here for?
- 11 If you handed something to God for the next twenty-one days, what would you do with the time it freed up?

The group together

Fasting alone is harder. Ask whether the group wants to do something together.

- 12 Would this group be willing to fast from something together? What would it be?
- 13 Jesus warned against fasting for an audience. How do you keep a fast from becoming a performance?
- 14 Fasting gets hard around day four. Who could you check in with during a hard week?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What will you set down this season, and what will you give that time to instead?

You might pray about

- For clarity about what to set down
- For a deeper connection than the one we currently have
- For those who are new and feel behind