



YEAR OF GROWTH TEACHING ARC
Mini-series: Bearing Fruit in every season
(27 May to 24 June 2018)

General Guidance for Small Community Leaders & Church Family Members –

This series involves members of our church family giving extended testimony to the way God is enabling them to bear fruit in the seasons of life in which they find themselves.

We've deliberately chosen a variety, to illustrate the reality of 'seasons' in our lives

- Some (like moving to be near the grandchildren) arise naturally
- Others (such as facing illness) come unexpectedly
- Some are welcome seasons
- Others are not

But the point is that God calls us and enables us to bear fruit in EVERY season of life, whether natural or unexpected, welcome or not.

You can watch an introductory video and listen to the session as usual on the resources page on our website: www.ccweb.org.uk/yog

We are inviting all small communities to use this series to encourage each member to reflect on the season of life they are in at the moment, and how God is calling and enabling them to bear fruit. We hope that everyone will have the chance to share testimony – and be prayed for – in the safety of their small community.

General Questions for the series:

- What season of life are you in?
- In what areas of life is God getting your attention – and how?
- How is God calling and enabling you to bear fruit in the season you're in?

If you're not yet in a small community, please do contact Neil (Neil.Shepherd@ccweb.org.uk) – you may want to gather with others informally to share testimony.

On 22 July at both the 10 and the 5 we will be having broader testimony-based input, under the heading 'Harvest Festival', as we seek to 'harvest' the good stories of all that the Lord has been doing in our lives over this 'Year of Growth.' We would be really grateful if you could send us a 30-second taster of your testimony recorded on your phone or other device, by 6th July. You can send them to us at: stories@ccweb.org.uk

You can find specific questions relating to this week's testimony below.

Gathering & Date – the 10, 10 June 2018

Title – A story of two paintings

Speaker(s) – Malcolm Bourne

Reading – Ezekiel 47: 1-9, 12

¹ The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple towards the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. ² He then brought me out through the north gate and led me round the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side. ³ As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then

led me through water that was ankle-deep. ⁴ He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. ⁵ He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in – a river that no one could cross. ⁶ He asked me, ‘Son of man, do you see this?’

Then he led me back to the bank of the river. ⁷ When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. ⁸ He said to me, ‘This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. ⁹ Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live.

¹² Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.’

Other scriptures for this testimony:

Matthew 28v18, Acts 11v14, Genesis 2, John 7, Revelation 22, Psalms 46 v 4-

Main message of this testimony in one sentence – Pray, Listen, Wait, Act. God can use even the smallest gesture made in faith to see His Kingdom come and His will be done.

Questions –

1. The process of waiting can be an active one; what does that mean to you? Discuss the potential ways to posture ourselves actively whilst waiting so that we are ready to respond when the Lord says ‘Now’ ...
2. How can we practice 'holding things lightly' so God can direct us into action?
3. Give any examples you have of seeing small actions having a big Kingdom impact.
4. How can we as a church get ready to step into God's calling for us, especially as we work with others to help build Bristol as a City of Hope?

Please also see the parable of the lifeboat station and the Words from the Korean Intercessors below:

Bearing Fruit in every season – Malcolm Bourne A Story of 2 Paintings, 10 June 2018

The parable of the Lifeboat Station

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat. But the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves went out day and night tirelessly searching for the lost. Some of those who were saved, and various others in the surrounding area, wanted to become associated with the station and give of their time and money and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews trained. The little life-saving station grew.

Some of the members of the life-saving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea. They replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged building.

Now the life-saving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they decorated it as sort of a club. Fewer members were now interested in going to sea on life-saving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do this work. The life-saving motif still prevailed in this club's decoration, and there was a liturgical lifeboat in the room where the club initiations were held.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boatloads of cold, wet and half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick and some had black skin and some had yellow skin. The beautiful new club was in chaos. So the property committee immediately had a shower built outside the club where victims of shipwrecks could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's life-saving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal social life of the club. Some members insisted upon life-saving as their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save lives of all the various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own life-saving station down the coast. So they did just that.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. It evolved into a club, and yet another 'spin-off' life-saving station was founded. History continued to repeat itself, and if you visit that sea coast today, you will find a number of executive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown.

KOREAN WORD OVER CHRIST CHURCH

In September 2014, a Korean church had sent a group of prophetic intercessors to Bristol, coinciding with the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the City ...

On Sunday the 14th of Sep 2014, they met Erica Bebb in Hope Chapel.

On learning which church she was from, they exclaimed

‘Christ Church, Christ Church!’

They explained that, just hours before, 10 of them, 5 groups of 2, had been prayer walking in the area. Their policy was to be led by the Spirit as to how to pray and to remain silent. The Holy Spirit led them back together as a group to the same spot. Where was God leading them? One person said ‘look at that church on the hill let’s go there!’ They walked into the church, they all felt compelled to break the silence and pray out loud; they prayed and proclaimed that –

- this church has always had a destiny to feed, nourish and resource the city- it was a spring, a well...words about the river
- the destiny was not thwarted in any way because this church is part of God’s plans for revival
- they believed a terrible battle had been going on and they prayed warfare prayers
- God is the victor – His plans and purposes will prevail
- The church is Christ Church, Clifton, Bristol