



12TH MAN MINISTRIES

Character Coaches Teaching Guide

Title: PRODUCE

Big Idea: The presence of God in our lives will PRODUCE FRUIT that nourishes us and everyone around us.

Question:

Almost every grocery store in the world is laid out in a similar way. As soon as you go enter in through the front doors, what section is immediately to your right?
(Vegetables, fruit, etc. // another word for that is PRODUCE)

It's all in the way you say it:

PRODUCE (noun) - a term that describes something that was grown, cultivated and harvested for the purpose of nourishment.

"Darryl Strawberry opened a produce stand called Strawberry's Strawberries."

PRODUCE (verb) - a term that describes something that has been made or worked on. It is an action that is done deliberately.

"Darryl Strawberry produced 1000 RBIs in his career."

"When it comes to God, there are specific types of produce that are produced."

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." - Galatians 5

"If God is the ROOT of our lives, these characteristics will be the FRUIT of our lives."

These 9 attributes or characteristics showcase WHO we are as we grow to reflect the one who created us. (See Illustration 1)

Discussion Question: What does it take to produce something great?

"In order to produce something worthwhile, you must be dedicated to the process."

"Let us not grow weary of doing what is good, for at the right time we will produce a harvest IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP." - Galatians 6:9 (See Illustration 2)

Practical Application: Recognize fruit in your teammates and comment on it. Encourage them as they are growing these attributes in their lives. ("You seemed so chill and peaceful this week! I noticed and just wanted to encourage you.")

Prayer: God, thank you for giving us your presence. Let others see love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self control in my life. Continue to produce this produce in me. AMEN!



Illustration 1:

Often times we here the phrase, “Play for the name on the front of the jersey rather than the name on the back.” But imagine if the names on the back of our jerseys were attributes rather than surnames.

A little league team from NYC did just that a few years ago...

Each player had a FRUIT of the Spirit (or characteristic of a life lived with God) on the back of their jersey. LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS and SELF CONTROL would take the field for each game! Imagine what the call from the press box would sound like...

“No outs runners on 1st and 2nd.

***Peace** looks in for the sign from his battery mate **Patience**. It’s a 2-seamer outside.*

*Here’s the pitch... and it’s a hard grounder to the short stop **Love**!*

*Love goes to **Goodness** at 3rd for 1!*

*Goodness throws a rocket to **Kindness** at 2nd for 2... who then decides to try to turn the triple play, but throws it over **Joy’s** head at 1st!*

The ball gets away and the runner tries for 2nd!

*The right fielder **Faithfulness** picks it up and fires towards 2nd but the hurried throw gets away from him!*

***Gentleness** & **Self Control** are rushing towards the ball as the runner now turns towards home!*

*Self Control comes up with the ball and throws a rope to **Patience** at the plate from left center!*

It’s gonna be close...”

Illustration 2:

There is a specific type of bamboo that takes 2 years to grow to maturity. It doesn’t even break the surface of the soil until 22 months after being planted.

Every day the seed requires water and sunlight to grow.

Imagine a farmer going out every day to water a barren spot of land... his neighbors whispering and wondering if he is crazy.

Year 1 goes by... nothing, not even a sprout.

Another 6 months... nothing.

I would guess that the farmer would be frustrated and would often times second guess himself. (“Is the seed taking root? Is it even still there? Is it getting enough water? Am I crazy?”)

But in the 22nd month a sprout breaks the surface!

And within 2 months that seed produces a massive bamboo tree that rises to nearly 40 feet!

So that begs the question... did the bamboo tree grow in 2 months... or 2 years?

If at any point the farmer would have neglected or given up on the seed, it would have died.

The bamboo tree was produced because of the farmer’s perseverance.

Allow the seeds that God planted inside of you to grow... even if you can’t see the fruit yet!

