

BETH MOORE

chasing vines

BOOK CLUB KIT



SHORELINE.CHURCH



Chasing Vines Book Club Kit

You Will Need:

- A copy of *Chasing Vines: Finding Your Way to an Immensely Fruitful Life* by Beth Moore.
- A copy of this Book Club Kit
- Your Bible!

Week One (August 31st)

Read: Introduction

Introductions: Tell us about yourself (In 1-2 minutes, tell us about you - family, work, hobbies, favorite food, etc..)

Discuss:

1. We'll review this book club kit and talk about what each meeting will look like.
2. What brought you to this study?
3. What are you most looking forward to? What are some potential challenges you might face?

Week Two (September 14th)

Read: Chapters 1, 2, & 3, Part One: The Vineyard, John 15, Numbers 13 & 14

Listen: Annie F. Down's Podcast, ["Episode 202: Beth Moore"](#)

Icebreaker: What is your favorite fruit? Why?

Discuss:

1. Beth writes that "God is not looking for a store-bought tomato. He wants the real thing, raised by His own hands, hard-won as it is," (pg. 19). Why do you think that the process of growing so important?
2. Nothing haunts us more than our search for a sense of place ("terroir"). But the belonging is found only in the sovereign palm of God. How does this comfort you? What can we do to remind ourselves of our true terroir?
3. Beth shares with us that in the beginning, grapes felt ordinary or insignificant to her but through studying, she found immense beauty in this multi-purpose fruit. We are reminded that we cannot always see the effects of our life but one day we will; our

fruit outlasts our life. Do you at times feel invisible, unviable, or overlooked? How does Beth's reminder change your view on your current circumstances?

4. What is one thing that you will take away from the chapters or podcast episode? How can you remind yourself of this truth throughout the weeks to come?
5. What did you highlight, underline, or star in these chapters? Why did that piece resonate with you?

Process: This week, choose a seed or small starter plant to "grow with your own hands." Plant it in your garden, backyard, or in a windowsill in your home. Research ways to keep it healthy and thriving ([here is a guide](#) of seeds that are best planted in September). Watch it grow over the coming weeks and ponder Beth's reminder that our God "likes watching things grow," (pg. 17).

Week Three (September 28th)

Read: Chapters 4, 5, 6, & 7 - Part Two: The Vinedresser

Listen: Jennie Allen Podcast, "[Staying Close to God with Beth Moore](#)"

Icebreaker: Do you enjoy singing? Do you sing loud and proud so others are able to hear? Or are you more of a shower or car singer?

Discuss:

1. In Chapter 4 titled "Song", we learn that the Lord Himself sings loudly over His people. How does it make you feel to know that Christ's love for you is utterly shameless? How does this change your view of your past mistakes, failures, and sin?
2. How was your fruit inspection process this week? What did you learn? Briefly share an area of your life that you inspected on your worksheet.
3. In Chapter 6 titled "Hills", Beth reminds us that we are intentionally planted; that we did not land here by accident. "God uses [the slopes] to tilt us toward the light, to drain the sludge from our hearts with spring rains, and to offer us a view of the landscape that will one day turn into vision," (page 99). Briefly describe a difficult season in your past that God used to 'tilt you toward the Light.' How might He be using your current circumstances to point you back to Him?
4. As we learned in Chapter 7, vines only produce fruit when planted in rocky soil. How does this truth change your view of facing difficult circumstances in your life?
5. What did you highlight, underline, or star in these chapters? Why did that line resonate with you?

Process: Complete the Fruit Inspection Worksheet on the following pages.

Fruit Inspection Worksheet

Instructions:

In the worksheet provided on the following page, choose one of the major areas of your life - marriage and family, local church, neighborhood, job or calling, activities and hobbies, and social life - evaluate these areas using Beth's questions on page 73, the simple time equation on page 79, and the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23:

- What kind of *good* fruit have I produced in my marriage and my family? My local church? My community?
- What kind of *bad* fruit have I produced in my marriage and my family? My local church? My community?
- What *bad* fruit have I produced through my job or calling? What good fruit have I produced?
- What fruit - good or bad - have I produced through my leisure time activities or hobbies?
- Has my social life borne good fruit or bad fruit?

In the space provided in each box, write a few answers to these questions:

- Is my heart growing warmer or colder toward people?
- Am I constantly in a bad mood?
- Am I increasingly exhausted?
- Do I get fixated on offenses, or am I willing to overlook most of them?
- Have I become harsher or gentler over the last year?
- Do I lose control easily?

Pray through each of these questions and ask the Lord to give you eyes to inspect the bad fruit and wisdom to know where to rid yourself of the rotten fruit. In each box, write one action to accomplish this week to "replant" this rotten fruit.

"To our great relief, even rotten fruit finds a place in the vineyard. In the efficient economy of cultivation, nothing is wasted. The vinedresser does a curious thing with the rotten fruit. He turns it back into the soil, and there, underground, by some spectacular organic miracle of nature, it fertilizes a future harvest," (Chapter 5, page 85)

Fruit Inspection Worksheet

Area of My Life: My Marriage

- When I spend time looking for faults in my spouse's life, it leaves me in a bad mood.
- I am not quick to extend forgiveness.
- I find that when I am critical of my husband, I tend to be critical with others which I have found to damage relationships.
- I have noticed more harshness in my tone when speaking with my spouse or children.
- I tend to have outbursts of emotion when I am frustrated; especially when I am driving!

Legalism + TIME = Grouchy FRUIT

Action: This week, I will use words of encouragement with my spouse instead of words of criticism.

Area of My Life: _____

_____ + TIME = _____ FRUIT

Action:

Area of My Life: _____

Area of My Life: _____

_____ + TIME = _____ FRUIT

Action:

_____ + TIME = _____ FRUIT

Action:

Week Four (October 12th)

Read: Chapters 8, 9, 10 & 11 - Part Three: The Vine

Watch: Passion Conference, ["To Be Made Clean with Beth Moore"](#)

Icebreaker: Are you more of a planner or do you love being spontaneous? Do you feel more comfortable knowing all the details upfront or do you have a more, "along for the ride" personality?

Discuss:

1. In Chapter 8, Beth gives us a picture of Jesus - *I am the true vine* (John 15:1). Beth writes that Jesus wants to shift our securities to receive all that we need from Him. How can we practically abide in Him alone, rather than people, places, or things? What steps can we take this week to shift this abiding to Jesus?
2. What does it mean to you that a life with Jesus is walking with Him step by step to a destination not yet revealed, as opposed to knowing everything upfront? How does this change the relationship between us and Jesus?
3. "God prunes a fruitful vine only to increase its fruitfulness. That's why growing can look a lot like shrinking," (page 156). Briefly share an instance in your life where at first you felt that God was taking something away from you but later realized He was pruning you to become even more fruitful.
4. "The trellis of the Cross trains us in the way of forgiveness," (page 168). Is there someone this week who you need to extend forgiveness to? How can we take steps to forgive that person or forgive ourselves?
5. What did you highlight, underline, or star in these chapters? Why did that line resonate with you?

Process: Write John 15:5 on a notecard and put it somewhere you can see it every morning. Say it a couple of times each morning and attempt to commit it to memory. By the end of the week, try and recite the verse to someone!

Week Five (October 26th)

Read: Chapters 12, 13, 14, 15, & 16 - Part Four: The Fruit

Icebreaker: Where is your favorite place to be outside and experience God's creation?

Discuss:

1. In Chapter 12 about soil, Beth writes, "The question is not whether we have what it takes to be extraordinarily fruitful, but whether we are willing to expose our tender roots to the odd concoction of life and death that makes us grow," (page 192). How has your story been affected by death (maybe a death of plans/expectations, a relationship, career path, family member, etc.)? How does that part of your story shaped your life today? What fruit do you see from that experience?

2. What is your most deeply held belief? What, beneath all else, are you most convinced is true? Use the answers on page 201 to help you.
3. In Chapter 14, Beth emphasizes the importance of life outside engaging and experiencing the world; God's people and creation are beyond our comfort zones. "When we over-insulate ourselves, we're protecting ourselves right out of our callings," (page 216). Where in your life might you be over-insulating? What is one step you can take to exit this comfort zone?
4. Read Luke 13:6-9. In this parable, Jesus emphasizes that the vinedresser in this story does not give up on the fruitless fig tree but instead provides fertilizer to assist its growth. Beth writes, "Our histories don't get to impose themselves on us like prophecies. We don't have to be who we have always been," (page 221). How does it change your perspective to know that God is the Vinedresser who does not give up on us, despite our seasons of fruitlessness?
5. Beth reminds us that pestilence (temptation, personal attacks, self-doubt, etc.) are signs that we are living a fruitful life; "Now that you've come of age and had the faith and the audacity to bear much fruit, you have come of notice to the devil," (page 232). Where in your life are you experiencing pestilence? How do Beth's words change your perspective on these attacks?
6. What did you highlight, underline, or star in these chapters? Why did that line resonate with you?

Process: Complete the Attacking Pestilence Worksheet on the following pages.

Attacking Pestilence Worksheet

Instructions:

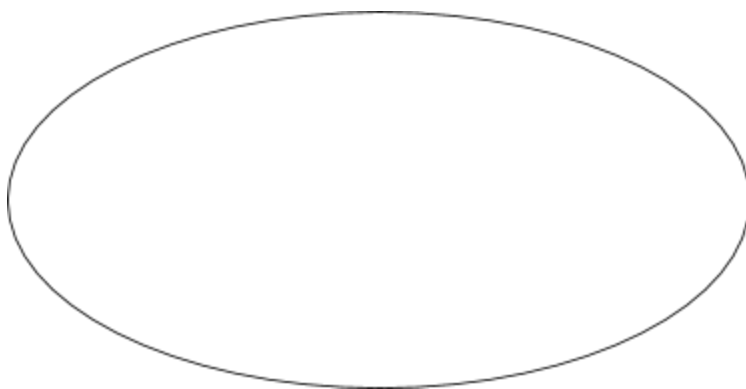
Choose a form of pestilence that you are currently facing in your life (temptation, lie you are prone to believing, personal attack, self-doubt, etc.) and write it down inside the circle provided. Choose a handful of verses from the list on the following pages (or one you find in the Bible not included on this list!) and write each one next to the lines provided. Scripture helps us fight pestilence with truth and re-orientes our focus back to God.

"That's why you are allowed to be tested almost beyond what you could bear. He [God] knew you'd prove genuine. Even when we feared we were fakes, Jesus knew better,"
(Chapter 16, page 236)

Example:



Attacking Pestilence Worksheet



Attack with Truth

The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still. Exodus 14:14

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:36

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Revelation 22:13

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah 1:5

I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more. Isaiah 43:25

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. John 15:16

God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you. Exodus 3:14

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Ezekiel 36:27

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem. Isaiah 66:13

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Deuteronomy 31:8

In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay. Hebrews 10:37

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26

For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Isaiah 41:13

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Revelation 21:4

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Isaiah 40:29

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7

My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they all stand up together. Isaiah 48:13

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12

You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you. Psalm 86:5

The Lord will vindicate me; your love, Lord, endures forever - do not abandon the works of your hands. Psalm 138:8

¹ Verses compiled from Jennie Allen's *Get Out Of Your Head Book Club Kit*, Week 9 "Fight with Truth"

Week Six (November 9th)

Read: Chapters 17, 18, & 19 - Part Five: The Harvest, Isaiah 65:17-22, and Revelation 21:1-7

Icebreaker: What are some blessings in your life that often go unnoticed? Skip the big ones like family, friends, salvation. Go for the small blessings like a fresh cup of coffee, a sunset at the beach, chocolate chip cookies, etc. Make a list of 10 blessings and share them with the group.

Discuss:

1. In Chapter 17, Beth writes, "When we act as if we don't notice God's blessings, it's not humility. It's ingratitude," (page 244). Have you ever fallen prey to the idea that celebrating blessings in your life was a selfish act? Why is celebrating so important to God according to this chapter?
2. Read Deuteronomy 24:17-22. We are to harvest with the margins in mind - the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow. How are you intentionally serving people on the edge? What is one action you can take to use your gifts to serve those in need?
3. "A certain amount of anticipation is as essential to the brimming pleasure of a great meal as the actual consumption," (page 270). God's delight is not just in results but in the entire process of fruit-bearing. How does this change your perspective on your current circumstances? How does it change your perspective of life on earth itself?
4. What is one thing you will take away from this study as a whole? How has your perspective changed over the last couple of months?
5. What did you highlight, underline, or star in these chapters? Why did that line resonate with you?

Process: Prepare a meal for your family or friends. Let your friends/family know what meal you are preparing to stir anticipation. Delight in the process of cooking: planning, buying groceries, preparing, and finally presenting. When your family or friends are gathered together, ponder the feast we will partake in when we are reunited with the Father. Celebrate and enjoy!

"There in the banquet hall at the great and glorious feast, the eyes of God will roam the heavens as they have roamed the earth. And peering down lengthy tables protracted like branches, alive and abiding, He will behold the fruit of the Vine," (Chapter 19, page 282).

Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns! Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. Revelation 19:7-8