



# Seasons



Growing in God's will  
Woman's Bible study

By Monique Mathys-Graaff

God has made all things beautiful in its time.

He has also set eternity in the human heart...

Ecclesiastes 3:11



A special thank you to my beloved husband, Andrew Graaff.

Truly, God chose you for me before the foundations of the earth. Thank you for being my biggest encourager, no matter how big or crazy my ideas are!

I love you, your character forged in God's love, till we see Jesus face to face.

My first Bible study, is dedicated to my parents and parents-in-law:

| Errol Mathys (late) | Diane Mathys | Stafford Graaff (late) | Margie Graaff (late)

Through every season of life, for me and my husband Andrew, you made the most of every opportunity and showed us how to do the same. We love you and will also keep your life's legacies alive!

Publication: 02/02/2020, Johannesburg, South Africa

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All scripture references are taken from the [Holy Bible](#), various versions.

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# Seasons: Growing in God's will

This Bible study hopes to help woman grow in God's will:  
to **grow through** our circumstances or seasons of life  
and

to **grow to** our full potential and purpose in God's will, in his timing or appointed season.

It provides a **practical framework** to reflect on **where** you are at currently, **what** God says to us in various seasons and **how** we should respond to ensure our growth in God.

It is a **tool using scriptures**, reflections, prayers and teachings, which can be applied many times in our life's journey. Its aim is to equip woman to make the most of every opportunity presented by each season.

May God's word be your joy and delight!

*Be covered in His everlasting, never failing love for you.*



# Seasons: Growing in God's will



There are easy and difficult seasons in our lives. Each season presents an opportunity for us to grow in God and partner with Him to live powerful purpose-driven lives. Our time on earth is more than just a series of random minutes or events. God's word in Ephesians gives direction to us as believers to Redeem the time (KJV) and make the most of every opportunity each season presents (NIV).



**“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is.” Ephesians 5: 15 – 17 (KJV)**



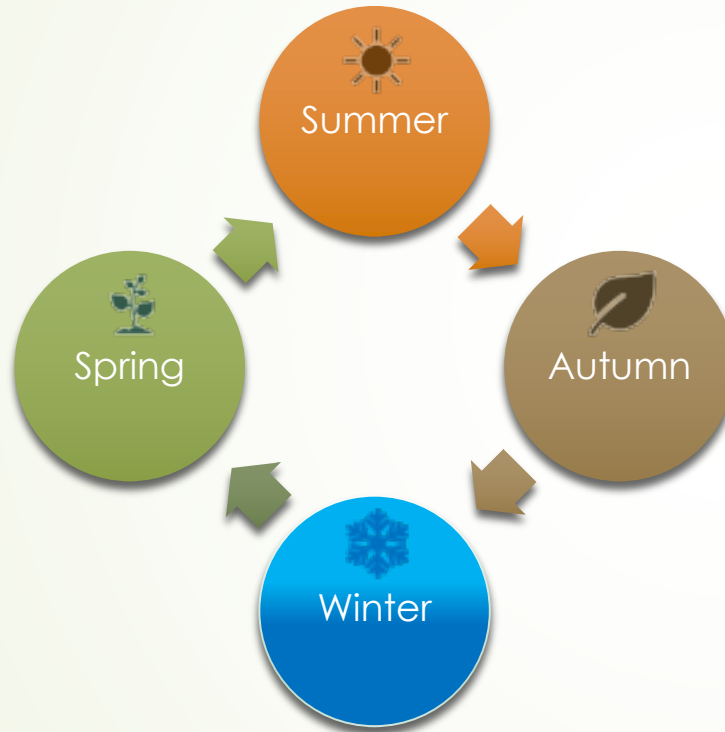
‘Kairos’ is the translated word for “time” but can also be translated as ‘seasons’. God encourages us to be careful and wise by making the most of every season. God's word provides many teachings to assist us in figuring out the purpose of the season we are in. Our actions need to be different in every season to ensure we grow to our best potential.



Your season is very unique to your life's journey. Each of our lives are uniquely designed to achieve God's Kingdom come on earth. With God's help, we can make wise decisions to grow through all seasons of our lives.



## Seasons Bible Study is divided into 2 parts:



1. Changing **seasons** anchored by God
  - ▀ Seasons from God have purpose
  - ▀ Blessings and troubles have their seasons
  - ▀ Significance of seasons
    - ▀ Which season are you currently in?
2. Navigating seasons, finding God's will
  - ▀ How we respond to God and to the world
  - ▀ Seasons are multi dimensional
  - ▀ Our different life stages
  - ▀ The different people in our lives
  - ▀ Perspectives on the cycles and seasons
    - ▀ How do you make the most of the opportunity in this season?

## Prayer



*Our Father who art in heaven, Creator of every season, blessings to Your holy name.*

*Thank you that you have created the seasons for our good. Thank you for the beauty of seasons changes and that we can be anchored in you, even amidst change.*



*Forgive us as we fail You Lord and help us to forgive others who may have failed us. May your grace cover our sins and weakness.*

*Grow us Lord, through your word (scriptures). Open our eyes, minds, hearts and souls to a deeper understanding of Your purposes through every season.*



*Anchor us again in the knowledge of Your unconditional, never failing love for us. Reveal to us Your sovereign will for our lives, for Your kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven.*

*According to the power at work through us, by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, come speak to us.*



*In the name of Jesus, Amen.*

## Notes

Jeremiah says, "The world may fade, the stars may fall, the seasons may change, and winter may come. But the God who has been our help in ages past is our hope for years to come. In Him we have permanence, stability, joy unshakable, and life unending."

## Notes


*'Are there any among the idols of the nations who can send rain? Or can the heavens [of their own will] give showers? Is it not You, O Lord our God? Therefore we will wait and hope [confidently] in You, For You are the one who has made all these things [the heavens and the rain].'* [Jeremiah 14:22](#) (AMP)



# Changing Seasons Anchored by God

*Changing seasons here on earth can never be stopped by man. The timing of leaves falling from trees or rain falling from clouds is in the hands of God alone. The glorious creation of God is our gift to see His sovereignty through the unstoppable changing seasons. Lest we forget that we are but a vapor, deafening thunderstorms remind us as lightening bolts hit the earth.*

*May you encounter our living God afresh as we walk through the scriptures, through the lens of changing seasons, learning lessons we can use as tools to equip us for a life of victory here in the land of the living. **Part 1 focusses on identifying which season you are in.***

# Seasons from God have purpose

The different seasons we see in our lives, as in nature, are anchored in God's sovereign purpose.

It is God alone that changes our appointed season, in line with His great loving plan (His will).

'He made the moon to mark the **seasons**, and the sun knows when to go down.' Psalms 104: 19

'...Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in **season**, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.' Jeremiah 5: 24

'Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed **seasons**, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do not know the requirements of the Lord.' Jeremiah 8: 7

'Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and **seasons**; he deposes kings and raises up others. He give wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.' Daniel 2: 20,21





# Blessings and troubles have their seasons

Through our lives, we all face a unique combination of exterior factors in our lives contributing to our experiences of blessings or trouble, fear or peace. God's purpose for your life still remains central.

'There is a time for everything, and a **season** for every activity under the heavens' Ecclesiastes 3:1

'That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in **season** and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.' Psalm 1:3

'I will make them and the place surrounding my hill a blessing. I will send down showers in **season**; there will be showers of blessing.' Ezekiel 34: 26

'Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their **seasons**: he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.' Acts 14: 17



# Significance of Seasons

To make the most of the opportunity/ies different seasons present, our actions need to be correct. In turn, our actions need to be in support of what God is seeking to do in our lives.

'Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the **season** for figs.' Mark 11: 13

'Preach the word; be prepared in **season** and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.' 2 Timothy 4: 2

'... - in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and which now at his appointed **season** he has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour,...' Titus 1: 2,3

Season	My actions	God's work
Summer	Bringing in the <b>harvest</b> / <b>Growing</b> in the blessing and peace	Birth of <b>fruit</b> / <b>Establishing</b> the work of your hands / God's kingdom established
Autumn	<b>Preparation</b> , acceptance of tough times at hand/ <b>Pruning</b> or cutting back to focus resources	<b>Leaves</b> changing colour / <b>Changing</b> circumstances / removing our comforts
Winter	<b>Waiting</b> on God / <b>Resting</b> in the sovereignty of God/ Trusting Him	Stripping down to a lifeless <b>stump</b> / Bringing life to <b>end</b> / A desert, emptiness
Spring	<b>Preparation</b> for good times / <b>Readiness</b> of anticipation / Expectant and pregnant with hope	Bringing young shoots from <b>seed</b> / <b>New beginnings</b> unfolding / A change for good

# Examining our **season** in relation to God

We need to carefully examine what our role is in our season while trusting God for the rest. God has a specific will for our lives and we need to think critically about where on life's journey we are. Let us not miss opportunities to achieve our purpose in God.

## My Actions:

### Us in relation to God:

- God's sovereign purposes are central to your life and we need to seek God's heart first
- Your personal season, at an appointed time, is anchored around God's will for your life
- Our world that we live in presents blessings, fears, troubles and peace – a collective experience, driven by many factors
- God ordained opportunity and season may still have many options – the enemy will want to draw you away from God's purpose in your season

## God's work

### Biblical pattern of events always points to Jesus:

- God's power revealed (Summer): creation story in old testament, miracles of Jesus in new testament
- God tests / World rebels (Autumn): tower of Babylon in old testament, pharisees questioning in new testament
- Jesus crucified (Winter): Moses died before reaching promised land, darkness of crucifixion
- Jesus resurrection (Spring): Isaac saved from being a sacrifice, Jesus resurrection paid our price

# Reflection: **Where** are you at?

On the next page, place a **heart** at the place you believe you are at currently?

- Are you experiencing a time of Trouble or a season of Blessing?
  - A time of trouble (tribulation) may be caused by loss, marriage trouble, sickness, financial loss, work challenges – really anything that causes you to have a sense of loss, even lost identity
  - A season of blessing may be a new relationship, birth of a child, financial blessings – anything which causes a sense of joy, even simple joy of being alive
- Would you say the majority of your time is spent with a sense of peace or is fear pre-occupying your mind and actions?
  - We are at peace when there is a sense of movement and progress in our lives. Think of a river running over rocks being hemmed in by riverbanks – it is not stagnant, it is also not rough like an ocean. It's a steadfast sense of hope. A state of shalom or wholeness – your whole being is well – mind, body and soul.
  - Fear can be subtle or very obvious. It can be recognized through a sense of anxiety, overwhelmed, paralysis or disconnectedness. It's a hopelessness or awareness that all is not well. Fear in itself is not bad but our reaction to it which matters.

*Wherever you find yourself, know that God is already there, waiting for you... to remind you again of His unconditional, everlasting love for you.*

*Meditate on the Bible chapter Romans 8*

*"...we glory in tribulations also:  
knowing that tribulation worketh  
patience;  
And patience, experience;  
and experience, hope:  
And hope maketh not ashamed;  
because the **love of God** is shed  
abroad in our hearts by the Holy  
[Spirit] which is given unto us."  
Romans 5: 3-5*

*"For I am persuaded, that neither  
death, nor life, nor angels, nor  
principalities, nor powers, nor  
things present, nor things to come,  
Nor height, nor depth, nor any  
other creature, shall be able to  
separate us from the **love of God**,  
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."  
Romans 8: 38, 39*



## Part 1

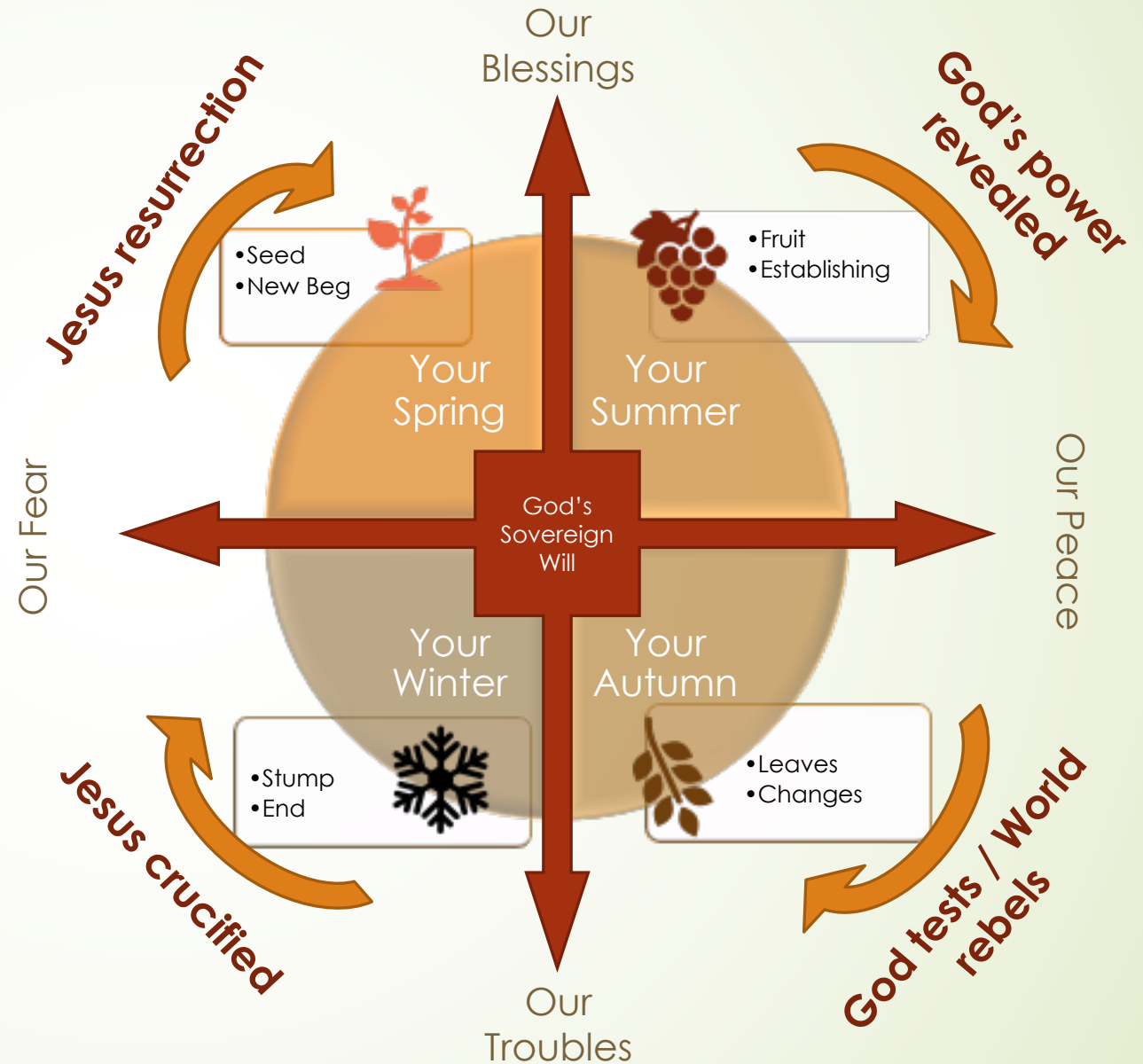
Mark with a little heart where on the illustration you are at?



'He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.'  
Ecclesiastes 3:11

Revisit this in 6 months to 1 year and re-assess.

Consider prayerfully applying the principles on each season, set out in the following pages...





# Summer: blessings and peace

## My actions

Bringing in the **harvest** / **Growing** in the blessing and peace

- What I should do:
  - Be bold and courageous
  - Be sensitive to those in winter seasons
  - Be generous
  - Be saving and storing for the long term
- What I should avoid:
  - Complacency and comfort zones, i.e. reducing quiet time with God because we don't feel the need / hunger anymore
  - Bragging and arrogance, i.e. forgetting we are all undeserving and our best efforts are as rags before God
  - Distractions
  - Stress and Busy-ness

## God's work

Birthing **fruit** / **Establishing** the work of your hands / God's kingdom established

- 'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.' Genesis 8:22
- '...you are to harvest the wine, summer fruit and olive oil, and put them in your storage jars, and live in the towns you have taken over.' Jeremiah 40:10
- 'He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.' , 'Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer;' Proverbs 10:5 & 30:25





# Winter: trouble and fear

## My actions

Waiting on God / Resting in the sovereignty of God/  
Trusting Him

- ▶ What I should do:
  - ▶ Grow deeper roots while resting and trusting in God
  - ▶ Be strong and defend the territory God has given you
  - ▶ Be sensitive to those in summer season
- ▶ What I should avoid:
  - ▶ Negative attitudes, addictions and people
  - ▶ Depleting your resources - you don't know how long your winter may be

## God's work

Stripping down to a lifeless **stump** / Brining life to **end**  
/ A desert, emptiness

- ▶ 'It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.' Psalm 74:17
- ▶ 'For to the snow He says, 'Fall on the earth,' And to the downpour and the rain, 'Be strong.' "He seals the hand of every man, That all men may know His work. "Then the beast goes into its lair And remains in its den.' Job 37: 6,7
- ▶ "'For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater.' Isaiah 55:10

# Autumn: peace with trouble looming

## My actions

Preparation, acceptance of tough times at hand/  
Pruning or cutting back to focus resources

- What I should do:
  - Let go of what the summer season no longer offers
  - Deal with emotions of loss and grieving
  - Be sensitive to those in spring seasons
  - Pro-actively prepare for time of trouble, i.e. seek help, free up finances and/or time
  - Manage expectations of others around you that some things may be changing
- What I should avoid:
  - Seeing every part of your life as troubled
  - Withdrawing from the love of God and people – isolation
  - Unhealthy crutches / dependencies in people or substances as coping mechanisms

## God's work

Leaves changing colour / Changing circumstances / removing our comforts

- 'Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before.' Joel 2:23
- 'When they walk through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs. The autumn **rains** will clothe it with blessings.' Psalm 84:6
- 'They do not say in their hearts, 'Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives the rain in its season, the autumn **rain** and the spring rain, and keeps for us the weeks appointed for the harvest.' Jeremiah 5:24



# Spring: from fear to blessings

## My actions

Preparation for good times / Readiness of anticipation / Expectant and pregnant with hope

- What I should do:
  - Learn to discern when blessings are near, it prepares you to know when the kingdom of God is near
  - Ask for our blessings and press into God's truth and character – His goodness
  - Ready ourselves: clean hearts, confessing our sins, "spring cleaning" our lives, prepare the soil, pull out weeds
  - Be sensitive to those in Autumn seasons
- What I should avoid
  - Being impatient and "creating" our own blessing which is not from God
  - Expecting the world to believe with you or to see through your faith lens

## God's work

Bringing young shoots from seed / New beginnings unfolding / A change for good

- 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.' Luke 21:29-31
- 'Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime;' Zechariah 10:1 'Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us ... like the spring rains that water the earth.' Hosea 6:3
- 'Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.' James 5:7

## Prayer



Father God,

*My desire is to live a life that pleases you, to the benefit of this broken world.*

*May I bear much fruit for my Father's glory – fruit that will last and that many may be blessed by.*



*Help me to be aware and appropriately responsive to my season. Firstly, to Your sovereign and ever-loving hand, working all things for my good. Help me know how to respond to You Lord and to this world. Secondly, guide me concerning all those close to me, especially my family.*



*May I always remember that I will reap my reward in due season, if I do not give up. Thank you for Jesus that is my reward, and that when I am weak, You, oh Lord are strong.*

*I claim the promise that my God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above and beyond anything I could ever ask or imagine!*



*In the powerful name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour,  
Amen*



## Further questions

– personal reflection or group study

- What season are you in currently?
- What is this season all about, blessing or trouble or fear or peace?
- What does God want you to do?
- What steps do you need to take to do what God wants you to do?
- Have you been careful and diligent to discern which season you are in, in relation to God's will?
- How could the enemy be putting options / distractions / people in front of you to pull you away from God's desired purpose in this season?



# Recommended Worship Song:

## Every Season by Nichole Nordeman

Every evening sky, an invitation  
To trace the patterned stars  
And early in July, a celebration  
For freedom that is ours  
And I notice You  
In children's games  
In those who watch them from the shade  
Every drop of sun is full of fun and wonder  
You are summer

And even when the trees have just surrendered  
To the harvest time  
Forfeiting their leaves in late September  
And sending us inside  
Still I notice You when change begins  
And I am braced for colder winds  
I will offer thanks for what has been  
and what's to come  
You are autumn

And everything in time and under heaven  
Finally falls asleep  
Wrapped in blankets white, all creation  
Shivers underneath  
And still I notice you  
When branches crack  
And in my breath on frosted glass  
Even now in death, You open doors for life to enter  
You are winter

And everything that's new has bravely surfaced  
Teaching us to breathe  
What was frozen through is newly purposed  
Turning all things green  
So it is with You  
And how You make me new  
With every season's change  
And so it will be  
As You are re-creating me  
Summer, autumn, winter, spring



## Notes


‘And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.’ Galatians 6:9

## Notes


‘Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.’

Romans 12:2



## Navigating seasons, finding God's will

*This bible study is written from a heart stirred by God to equip the body of Christ to discern their time and season in relation to God's sovereign will. Having personally been so aware of how different God's purpose looks in different seasons of my life - I got it wrong often. But when I was acting in season at the appointed time, I could behold the incredible hand of God.*

*Our response in each season of our lives can change our destiny. Thinking through the complexity and multi-dimensional facets of our lives, assists in ensuring we make the most of the opportunity before us.*

**Part 2 focusses on knowing and doing God's will in your season.**

# Your response in life's seasons

Our responses to changing seasons in our lives can be different, depending on our reference point – heaven or earth – God or the world.

Reflect on which side may be more dominant for you currently from the list below. E.g. Have you felt yourself constantly in fight mode or in deep need asking God for something?

## Part 2

### ...to God (heaven)

- Thanksgiving and Praise
- Repentance
- Forgiveness
- Petition / Ask
- Listening / Seeking

### ...to the World (earth)

- Standing your ground
- Fighting back
- Preparation
- Building / Harvesting / Reaping

The next slide provides a guide to ensuring our responses match the need in season. Reflect whether there are any areas of your life that may require adjusting. Circle the areas most relevant to you, where you are spending most of your time and focus.

# Time and focus across the seasons

Circle your dominant areas currently, in both tables.

## Part 2

Notice for your dominant areas, the bolded suggested dominant response.

Our response		Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring
To God	Thanksgiving / Praise	<b>25% - 50%</b>	15% - 25%	15% - 25%	15% - 25%
	Repentance / Forgiveness	15% - 25%	<b>25% - 50%</b>	15% - 25%	15% - 25%
	Petition / Ask	15% - 25%	15% - 25%	15% - 25%	<b>25% - 50%</b>
	Listening / Seek	15% - 25%	15% - 25%	<b>25% - 50%</b>	15% - 25%
		<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Our response		Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring
To the world	Stand / Wait	0% - 20%	<b>50% - 100%</b>	0% - 20%	0% - 20%
	Fight	0% - 20%	0% - 20%	<b>50% - 100%</b>	0% - 20%
	Prepare / Plant	0% - 20%	0% - 20%	0% - 20%	<b>50% - 100%</b>
	Build / Harvest	<b>50% - 100%</b>	0% - 20%	0% - 20%	0% - 20%
		<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Are there responses in your season you need to start doing more of, or those you need to reduce?

# Multidimensional nature of our seasons

Although in the previous section you identified a dominant season, you may actually be in different seasons in various parts of your life. And it would be wise to understand the offsets – being thankful for a summer marriage while work is in winter.

Write down your season currently in part of your life, under the “My season” column below.

## Part 2

	My season	Significance of season
God / Spirituality	_____	“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33
Health	_____	“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;” 1Corint 6:19
Marriage	_____	“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.” Hebrews 13:4
Parenting	_____	“...to turn the hearts of the parents to their children...” Luke 1:17
Work	_____	“May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.” Psalm 90:17



# Multidimensional impact of relationships

We may be experiencing different seasons in different aspects of our lives and so may the most influential people in our lives. Identify what you think their seasons are and which is their dominant season. Replicate your season in the first column and then complete the rest, where something relevant stands out to you. Reflect on how this may be supporting or preventing you from making the most of your seasons.

## Part 2

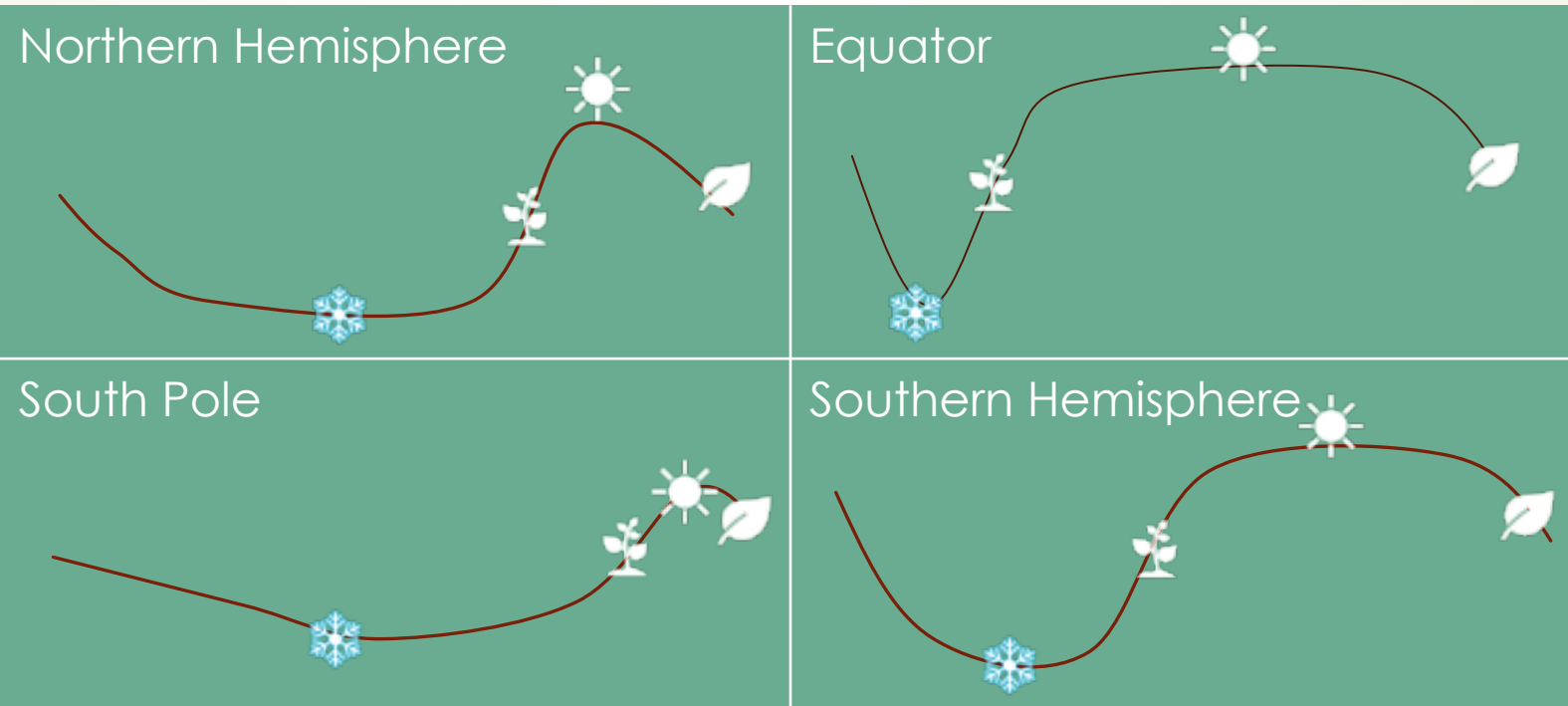
	My season	Husband	Children	Boss	Parents
God / Spirituality					
Health					
Marriage					
Parenting					
Work					

# Over a year, **seasons** come in different lengths and depths, all across the earth

Depending on where we live, the lengths of our seasons can vary significantly. Perhaps, like a Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, most of your life feels like winter – the Northern Hemisphere. Or perhaps you feel your life has been more balanced like the Southern Hemisphere.

## Part 2

'He has made everything beautiful in its time...



Reflect on which season cycle you feel closest matches your current circumstances.

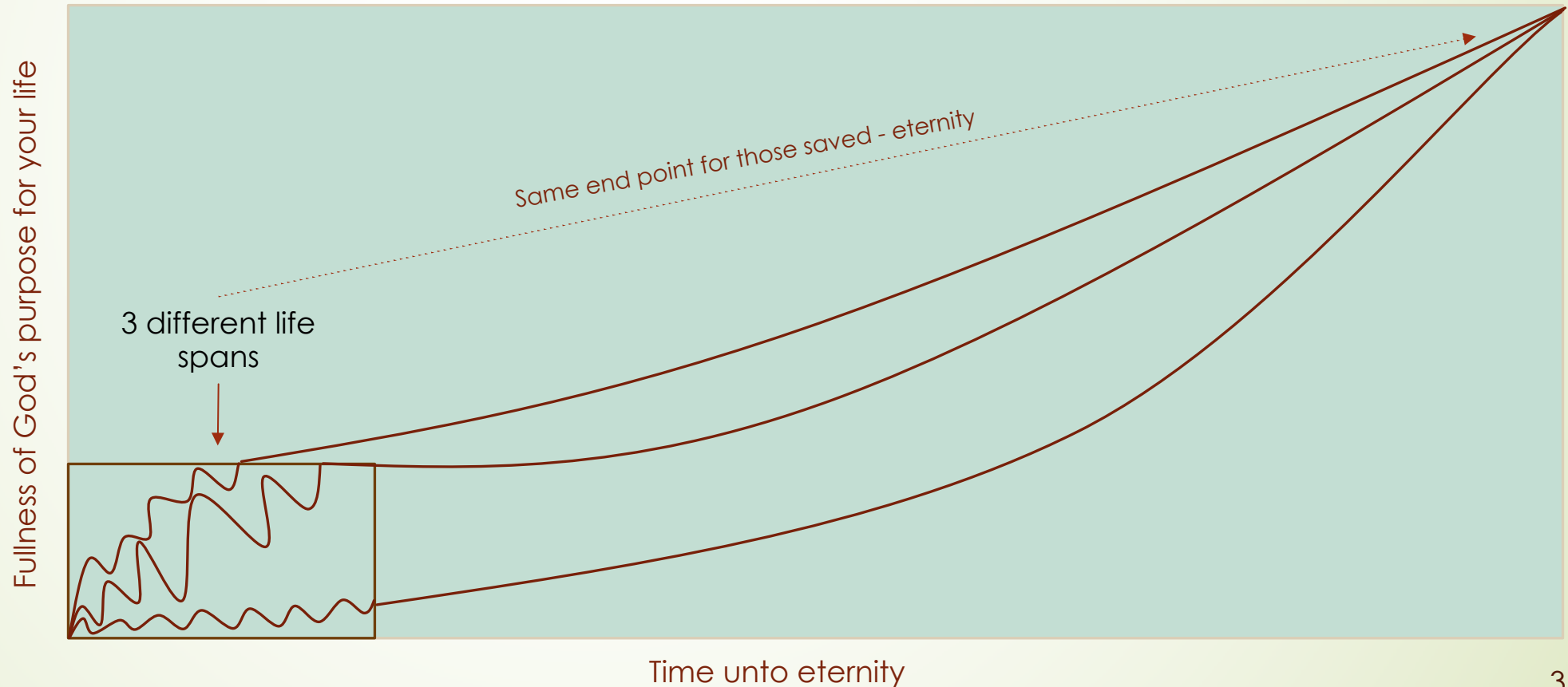
How best should you be responding in a long winter or long summer?

# Over a life-time, our many cycles of seasons are still small compared to eternity

Consider three different life-times, all with different seasons. One experiencing mild seasons, no major blessings nor trouble. Another living extremes in each changing season. Simplistically illustrated below, we all partake in one salvation to eternity with God – God's ultimate Will for us all!

## Part 2

...He has also set eternity in the human heart...



# God provides many examples in the Bible

To help you align your responses with God's will and purpose, the table below gives examples from the Bible.

	God's work	Their response	Purpose/God's will
<b>Noah</b> Gen 6-8	Brought the rain, at the appointed time	Obedience to build the ark, persevering through a long autumn and winter, with opposition	Save people and cleanse the earth from evil . Noah to grow in Faith and have his family saved
<b>Abraham (Sarah)</b> Gen 22	Gave an aged, barren wife a child	Obedience to sacrifice his child, trusting God to even resurrect the dead.	For His people to have faith in God's promises to be fulfilled, even when it seems impossible
<b>Moses</b> Exodus 2-3	Bring the miracles of the plagues, parting the red sea and water from the rock	Stepping out in faith, despite weakness and insecurity	Setting God's people free from slavery and giving them His commands. Moses encounters God.
<b>David</b> 1,2 Sam 1 Chronicles	Favour to be crowned leader	Face and kill giants, fight for God, listen to God's heart and respond by blessing God with the Temple.	Teaches us that intimacy and seeking Gods heart is the path for favour
<b>Esther</b> Esther 1- 10	Stirs favour for her in the heart of the King	Prepare herself, wait on God, listen to wisdom, use her position for the benefit of her people	To save God's people
<b>Nehemiah</b> Nehemiah 1 - 10	Stir favour in Nehemiah's boss - the ruling king at the time	Discern the right time. Build and defend walls of Jerusalem. Unite people/families, being strategic.	Restore hope and provide a place for His people to worship Him and be with Him
<b>Mary (mother of Jesus)</b>	Miraculously impregnate a virgin woman	Wait in quiet, protect her child, move in obedience with God and her husband. Teach her child about God.	Bring Jesus, the Saviour of all man and woman, into flesh here on earth.

## Part 2

...; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.' Ecclesiastes 3:11

# Making the most of your season's opportunity – responding in partnership with God's will

'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.' Romans 12:2

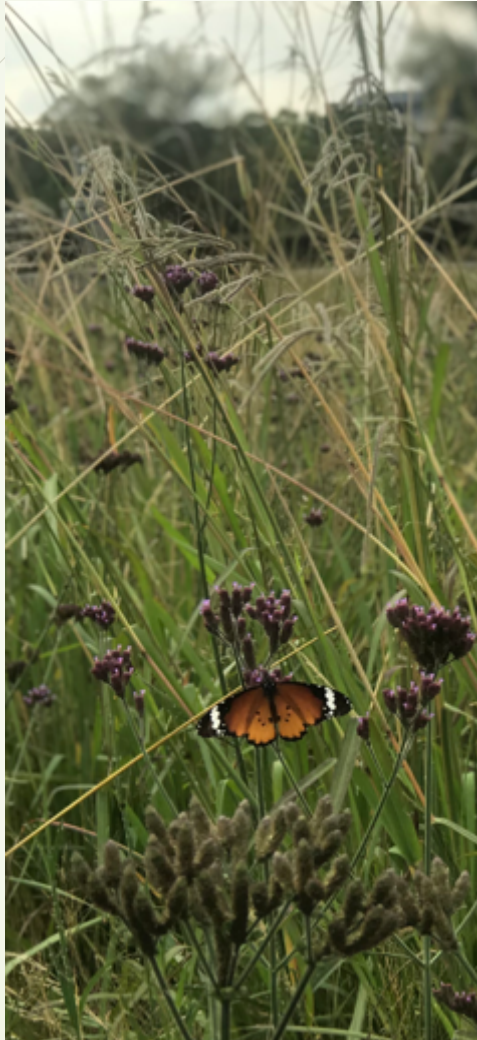
Examining our seasons and ensuring our responses align to God's purpose and will is how we make the most of our time here on earth. Use all the tools from this Bible Study to complete this final table: (See back page for larger version)

## Part 2

	My season	Key relationships	My response	God's work	God's Will & purpose
Refer to	Page 14, 27	Page 28	Page 11, 15 – 18, 26	Page 11, 15 – 18, 31	Page 31
God / Spirituality					
Health					
Marriage					
Parenting					
Work					

## Prayer

### Part 2



God of all seasons and time,

Even as there is a time for everything in my life,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens,  
show me Your will in each of my seasons:



to be born and to die,  
to plant and to uproot,  
to kill and to heal,  
to tear down and to build,  
to weep and to laugh,  
to mourn and to dance,



to scatter stones and to gather them,  
to embrace and to refrain from embracing,  
to search and to give up,  
to keep and to throw away,  
to tear and to mend,  
to be silent and to speak,  
to love and to hate,  
for war and for peace.



Amen (from Ecclesiastes 3)



## Further questions

### – personal reflection or group study

- ▶ How have you been responding to God? Are you spending enough time with God?
- ▶ What have you been spending your time on in the world? Distractions? Business?
- ▶ Are there relationships in your life, where the season of another is overshadowing yours?
- ▶ Can you see God's will working to use the season of people close to you?
- ▶ Is this a long or a short season? How would that change your response?
- ▶ What do you see God doing in this season?
- ▶ What have others in the Bible done in similar seasons?
- ▶ Are your responses in this season aligned to God's will and purpose for your life?

#### Part 2



# Recommended Worship Song:

**Vow** by Misty Edwards

I've paid my vows right here right now  
No matter what comes my way (2x)  
I do love You, I do love You, I do love You  
You know that I love You, Jesus (2x)

For every season there's a reason  
And a purpose under heaven  
This I know, this I know

A time to laugh and a time to cry  
A time to live and a time to die  
A time to speak a time for silence

A time to gain and a time to lose  
A time to mourn and a time to dance  
A time for peace and a time for war

Through every season of the soul  
Through every season of Your love  
Through every season in this life  
I want You to know

I do love You, I do love You, I do love You  
You know that I love You, Jesus

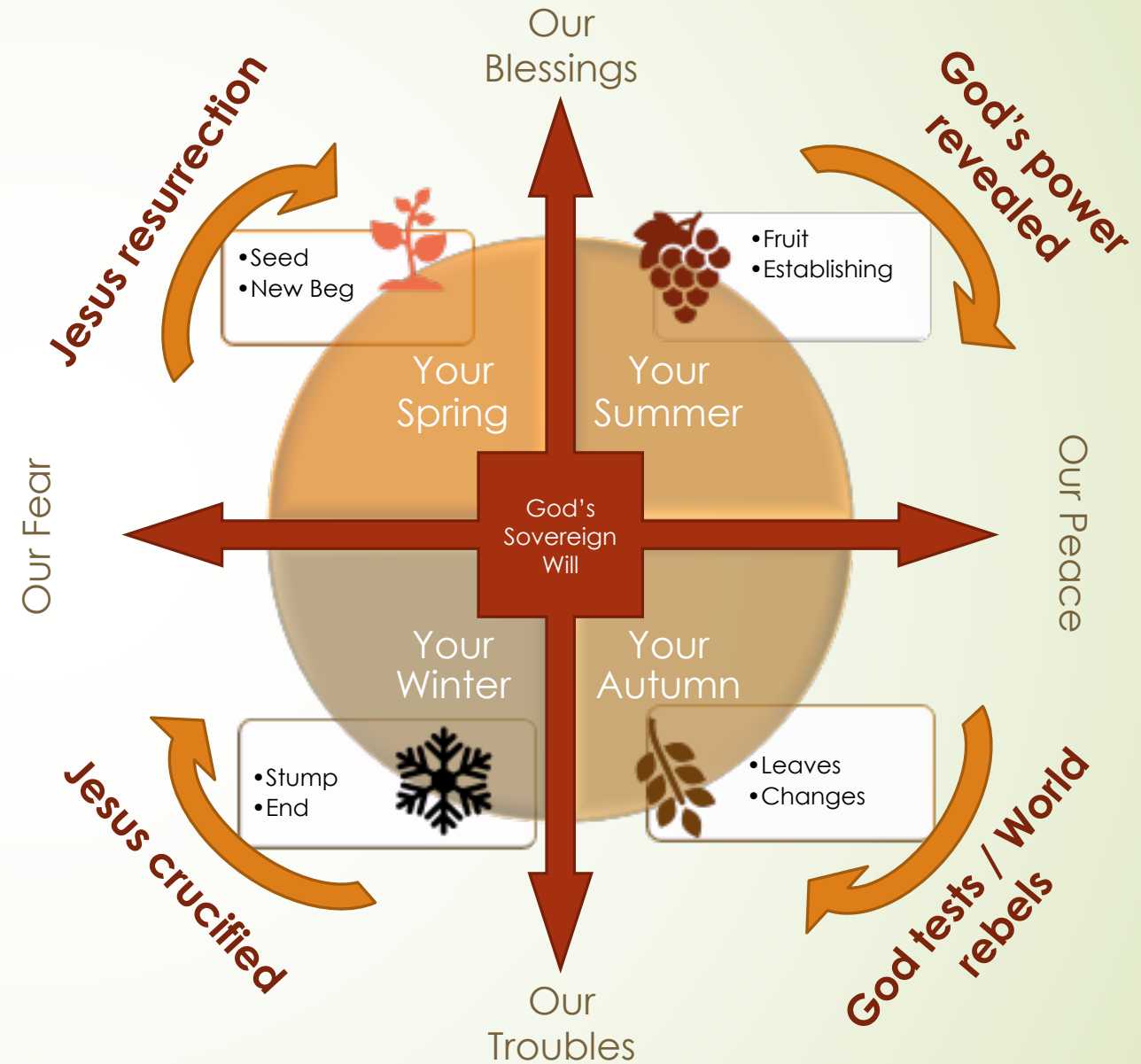
Just as in nature plants go seasons, having to prepare or be pruned, so too do we in our personal life's. John 15 sets out an incredible image of God as the Gardener (husbandman). It speaks about cutting back but also bearing fruit. It speaks about connectedness with the true vine, Jesus as Christ and Lord of the church. Abiding in Christ, being close to the source of all life is the path to fullness of joy.

### John 15

- <sup>1</sup> I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.
- <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.
- <sup>3</sup> Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.
- <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.
- <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
- <sup>6</sup> If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.
- <sup>7</sup> If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
- <sup>8</sup> Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
- <sup>9</sup> As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.
- <sup>10</sup> If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.
- <sup>11</sup> These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Extra

Season	My actions	God's work
Summer	Bringing in the <b>harvest</b> / <b>Growing</b> in the blessing and peace	Birth <b>ing</b> <b>fruit</b> / <b>Establishing</b> the work of your hands / God's kingdom established
Autumn	<b>Preparation</b> , acceptance of tough times at hand/ <b>Pruning</b> or cutting back to focus resources	<b>Leaves</b> changing colour / <b>Changing</b> circumstances / removing our comforts
Winter	<b>Waiting</b> on God / <b>Resting</b> in the sovereignty of God/ Trusting Him	Stripping down to a lifeless <b>stump</b> / Bringing life to <b>end</b> / A desert, emptiness
Spring	<b>Preparation</b> for good times / <b>Readiness</b> of anticipation / Expectant and pregnant with hope	Bringing young shoots from <b>seed</b> / <b>New beginnings</b> unfolding / A change for good



	My season	Season of key relationships	My response	God's work	God's Will & purpose
Refer to	Slide 12, 22	Slide 23	Slides 13 – 16, 21	Slides 13 – 16, 26	Slide 26
God / Spirituality					
Health					
Marriage					
Parenting					
Work					



# Seasons

