# 119

# GROUP STUDY GUIDE

## Fruit of Wolves

### TEACHING SUMMARY

The teaching asks how Scripture identifies false teachers who appear to belong to the flock. Matthew 7:15–23 connects sheep's clothing, fruit and lawlessness. The opening exercise asks listeners to list their assumptions about good and bad fruit, then test those assumptions against the passages.

Its central conclusion is that the decisive fruit is a person's desire to obey God's Torah rather than knowingly disregard it. Jeremiah 31:33 connects God's law with the heart. The teaching distinguishes struggling to reach obedience from rejecting it, so its argument is not that a faithful believer never stumbles.

Teaching Torah is not enough if a leader refuses to live it. The source examines pride, love of money, abuse, neglect of parents and the pursuit of personal authority. Mark 7's Corban example shows a tradition overriding a command, while Yeshua's call to service challenges domination.

Believers are urged to examine teaching and conduct against Scripture rather than trust religious appearance, popularity or impressive works. The source explicitly denies that law-keeping earns salvation. Its concern is whether faith produces a sincere desire to follow God's instructions.

Second Peter 3:15–17 warns that Paul's letters can be distorted; Acts 20:29–32 warns of wolves drawing disciples after themselves. The teaching applies these passages to instruction that promotes lawlessness. Scripture supplies the standard by which both teachers and listeners should examine themselves.

John 10 distinguishes Yeshua the Good Shepherd, the hired hand who abandons the sheep, and the wolf who scatters them. Matthew 10:16 joins wisdom with innocence. The conclusion calls believers to remain grounded in the Word and alert to deliberate rejection of God's commands.

## SUMMARY POINTS

- False teachers may appear religious outwardly.
- Yeshua says prophets are recognized by their fruit.
- The source identifies fruit with the desire to obey or disregard Torah.
- Wolves may exploit the flock or draw disciples after themselves.
- Popularity and impressive works do not prove approval.
- Believers must compare teaching with Scripture.
- Twisted teaching can lead people into lawlessness.
- Leaders must remain accountable to the Word.
- Struggling toward obedience is distinguished from rejecting it.
- The goal of discernment is protection and faithfulness.

## FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

### Basic

1. Yeshua says false prophets are recognized by their _____.
2. False prophets may appear in sheep's _____.
3. The inward description of false teachers is ravenous _____.
4. Matthew 7:23 calls the rejected claimants workers of _____.
5. Believers are told to test _____.
6. Jeremiah 31:33 says God will write His law on His people's _____.

### Challenging

1. The standard for truth is God's _____.
2. False teachers can draw disciples after _____.
3. Paul's letters contain things difficult to _____.
4. In Mark 7, the tradition used to withhold help from parents is called _____.
5. The teaching distinguishes struggling to obey from knowingly choosing to _____ God's instruction.
6. John 10 identifies Yeshua as the Good _____.

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does the teaching emphasize fruit over outward appearance?

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2. What does the teaching identify as the decisive fruit, and how does it distinguish struggle from rejection?

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3. How can a leader exploit or scatter the flock?

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4. Why are popularity and impressive works insufficient tests?

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5. How should believers handle difficult passages and claims about Paul?

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6. How can believers apply the teaching's call to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves?

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_____

# ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

## Basic

1. fruit — Matthew 7:16–20
2. clothing — Matthew 7:15
3. wolves — Matthew 7:15
4. lawlessness — Matthew 7:23
5. everything — Teaching opening and conclusion
6. hearts — Jeremiah 31:33

## Challenging

1. Word — 2 Timothy 3:16–17; teaching conclusion
2. themselves — Acts 20:30
3. understand — 2 Peter 3:16
4. Corban — Mark 7:11
5. reject / disregard — Teaching distinction between striving for obedience and rejecting it
6. Shepherd — John 10:11–13

## FACILITATOR DISCUSSION NOTES

Suggested responses follow the teaching. Invite discussion and personal application; these are not additional required answers.

1. Matthew 7:15–23 warns that religious appearance and impressive claims can coexist with lawlessness. The source asks listeners to test their initial definitions of fruit. Invite participants to compare an assumption they brought to the study with what the passage and teaching actually say.

2. The source identifies the decisive fruit as a desire to obey Torah versus knowingly rejecting it, linking this with Jeremiah 31:33. It explicitly says striving and falling short is not rejection. Preserve that distinction; do not label every mistake or unresolved question as deliberate rebellion. Ask what openness to correction would look like.

3. Second Timothy 3:1–9, Mark 7:5–13 and Acts 20:29–32 supply examples of self-interest, overriding a command and drawing followers after oneself. John 10:11–13 adds abandonment by a hired hand. Discuss how care, transparency and accountability can protect people without making unsupported accusations about a named leader.

4. Matthew 7:21–23 mentions prophecy, exorcisms and mighty works alongside the warning about lawlessness. The source argues that public success cannot replace faithful desire and conduct. Ask what evidence from teaching and behavior should be examined before treating a platform or reputation as reliable.

5. Read 2 Peter 3:15–17 with Acts 20:29–32. The teaching warns against using difficult passages to justify lawlessness and calls for the whole scriptural context. Choose one interpretive claim to test carefully, distinguishing a difficult question from a conclusion the passage clearly supports.

6. Matthew 10:16 combines wisdom with innocence. The source urges alertness without becoming corrupted by what one opposes, and points to Yeshua as the Good Shepherd in John 10. Discuss a measured response to a concern: examine the evidence, seek clarification and avoid spreading claims that have not been established.