

Growth Group Lesson
January 14-15
Scripture - John 15:1-11

Spend time praying with your group. Ask God for help in understanding his heart for spending time with him in his word.

Last Week: God asks us to pray continuously, with childlike faith, making our requests known to him. As our good Father, he always gives good things to his children.

Get to know one another:

1. What do you spend the most time doing in your week (other than work)? What would you like to spend most of your time on?

Read John 15:1-17

Jesus uses a familiar picture for an agrarian culture and Old Testament readers, bearing fruit like a fruit tree or vine. He is communicating a very important message. Israel, who is often depicted as a vine/branch, has failed to produce good fruit. Jesus, the Messiah and true representative of Israel, will be the true vine that will bear much fruit. Only through Him can the fruit of salvation be attained.

2. What is the fruit Jesus refers to? **John 6:26-29, 15:4-5, 8**
3. What happens to the branches that do not bear fruit? Why? **Verses 2 and 6**
4. Why does God prune the branches that do bear fruit? **Verse 2, James 1:2-4, Heb. 12:4-11**
5. What are Jesus' commands that we must follow in order to abide/remain in Him? **Verse 12, 1 John 3:19-24**
6. What is the result of following these commands? **Verses 5, 7, 10-11**
 - a. How has spending time in God's word led to this result?

Jesus is describing a type of life where He is in us (through the Holy Spirit) just as He is in the Father. It is captured in this statement from John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

7. What kinds of things characterize this life in Jesus? **Verse 11, Galatians 5:22-23, Phil 2:1-5**
8. Is your life characterized by these things? How might you grow in these things? **John 15:5**
9. What do you need to do to abide/remain in Jesus this week?
 - a. Is there anything that would hold you back?
10. In verses 13-15 Jesus describes the relationship that He has with those who are abiding/remaining in Him (those that bear fruit).
 - a. What is the relationship defined as in verse 14?
 - b. What does that mean Jesus will do for them? **Verse 13**
 - c. What does that say about how Jesus views you? **Verse 15-16**

11. What is the purpose of Jesus' commands? **Verse 17, 1 John 4:7-12**
12. Does Jesus feel like a friend to you? How do you know that He is your friend? **Verse 13**
 - a. What would you like to do this week to enjoy your friendship with Jesus?
13. How has it been in your life recently to love others (laying down your life)? What makes it easy or hard?

Spend some time in prayer.

- Ask God to draw us near to him so that we may abide in him.
- Ask God for a love for his word so that we can know him more.
- Ask God for opportunities to teach his word to others who do not know him.