

Study Guide #4 (Leader's Guide): K-group Bible Study for Week of October 1, 2017

Title of Scripture Passage: Abiding in Christ

A disciple of Jesus is committed to staying intimately attached to Christ as his/her life source. The only way that a Christian can be fruitful in his/her life is to stay closely connected to Christ.

John 15:1-7 (NIV)

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

- Remind your group that one of the discipleship skills that we want to develop this year is the ability to verbalize scripture to people with whom we will have the opportunity to minister. So we will continue to ask one of you to tell the bible story from memory.
- So, let's give our undivided attention to _____ as they verbalize tonight's bible study passage.

Questions

- Now, let's open our bibles to John 15:1-7. Let's review the story and look for details that need to be emphasized and remembered.
- After clarifying what the bible says, ask "after listening to Jesus' teaching about the vine and the branches, what resonated with you the most and why?"
- Ask, "Does anyone have any background or experience with vineyards or gardening? If so, do you have any insights into this gardening analogy that Jesus is using?"
- What does the surrounding context teach us about this passage?
(Jesus spoke these words in the upper room, the night before the crucifixion. The disciples seem to finally get "the message" that Jesus is truly going to die and be leaving them. In response, Jesus teaches them about the Holy Spirit and how he will be with them and in essence will allow them to stay connected to himself. After the passage, Jesus reminds them of his love for them and of the importance of them loving each other.)
- What is the fruit that Jesus is referring to in this passage?

- Ask the group to share some specifics about things they have learned and practiced that have helped them to remain intimately connected to Christ.
- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What actions do you plan to take as a result of this study and our discussion?

Close with prayer. Pray specifically that the group can follow through with what God has put on their hearts to do.