

PURSUE

BUILDING FOR PEOPLE. BELIEVING FOR MORE.

2

Leader Guide

The Way

April 3, 2022

Main Passage: John 15:1-8

Theological Theme

The one true and living God is both transcendent and immanent. He is both separated from His creation because of His greatness and goodness and in and with His creation. He calls His people to abide in Him each moment and depend on Him for everything.

Introduction

- ❓ Have you ever been in a place for so long that you started to smell like that place?
- ❓ Have you ever spent so much time with a person or group of people that you began to mimic some of their actions or characteristics?

Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me” (John 15:5). The Christian life is intimately and exclusively connected to Christ. Jesus is the hope and focus of all who have been born again. Furthermore, all who have experienced new life by connecting with Christ will be moved with compassion to lead others to know Him also.

1. Our Deepest Need (John 15:1-4)

Jesus’s point was summed up in verse four when He said, “Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.” Christians are desperately dependent upon Christ for all things and will seek to abide with Him more and more as they grow in their understanding and knowledge of the Scriptures. It may seem

counterintuitive, but the more a Christian matures, the more they will depend upon Christ. The Christian who is self-reliant and gives little thought to their need for a connection to Christ reveals their immaturity.

2. Fruit Producers (John 15:5-7)

Jesus told His disciples that they were to “remain” in Him. In other words, their minds were to contemplate thoughts about Him, their hearts were to be filled with right affections toward Him, and their hands were to be busy doing that which pleased Him.

3. Glory to the Father (John 15:8)

The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Christians bear the name of God, and they were created for God’s glory (Isaiah 43:7). In John 15, Jesus commanded His followers to remain in Him and to produce fruit. The ultimate purpose of this is that the Father would be glorified.

Questions to Guide Your Group’s Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC