



Branches & Friends | So That You May Know The Vine

John 15:1-17

Dgroup's Curriculum: Leader's Copy

WORSHIP

Consider reading **Psalm 57** together, taking turns reading a verse at a time, or reading responsively with the leader reading a verse and the group responding with the next verse. You can discuss the Psalms you read and share what they mean to you.

Consider singing some of the songs on the sheets that were included in your packet if you have someone in the group that plays the guitar or can lead music and/or play the guitar.

WELCOME

Questions.

Have you ever planted a garden? What was the result of your hard work? Was there a feast, or was there a famine? Tell us the story.

WORD

Discussion Questions.

1. 11 times in the passage (from John 15: 1-11), Jesus spoke about ABIDING IN HIM. How do you abide in the vine? How would you know that you are abiding in Jesus?

Answer:

2. The words "Take away" or "lift up", "pruning" and "cleansing" are the special support that we receive from the great vinedresser, God the Father. Do you remember any similar occurrence in your life where the vinedresser "lifted you up" or "pruned" or "cleansed" you to bear fruit or bear more fruit? Please share your experience.
3. As we continue to abide in the true vine (Jesus Christ), fruit-bearing will become a natural process. What is this fruit that Jesus is talking about? What types of fruit does an abiding branch eventually bear?

Answer:

4. As branches we are designed by God to bear much fruit as long as we are always abiding in the Vine. Discuss how this can be true in your life.

Answer:

5. In John 15: 15, Jesus said, “15 No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.” What does this statement mean to you? What is the privilege and responsibility that believers have as friends of Jesus? How can you make this real in your life?

Answer:

WORK

God the Father is the Gardener, Jesus is the True Vine, and we are the branches. God is planning a harvest of grapes that will bring the wine of joy to the entire world. In His plan, He is expecting that we will do what branches do: Bear fruit. It's a simple plan, but it does require us to cooperate with God, to obey Him. If we choose to obey Him, He will use us to do things that will bring glory to Him and reward us for our willingness to obey by making it possible for us to bear fruit. When we begin to bear fruit, God will become more actively involved in our lives and continue to prune us, carefully removing the parts of our hearts and lives that prevent us from being as effective as we could be. The pruning is painful, but in the end, we bear more fruit that brings better rewards. It's God's way. On the other hand, if we refuse to obey, we are at the same time refusing to bear fruit for God's glory. If we do that consistently, God will stop giving us the opportunity to bear fruit. He will pass over us to another follower of Jesus and give them the opportunity to bear fruit and thus receive the reward that had been intended for us. This should prompt all of us to want to obey. We have a new week in front of us when we can respond to God and bear fruit that will bring a reward. Let's get busy with that this week and in all the weeks that lie ahead. Hey, as I mentioned above, I'm curious as to how people are using this weekly curriculum. If you've read this far and have used the curriculum in your group, could you just hit 'reply' on the email? If you have any comments you can include them, but that's not necessary. I'd just like to see if the material is being used. Thanks. And, once again, if you have already replied you don't have to reply again.

Those of us who lead should remember that there is no better way to motivate others to share the gospel than to set an example for them. Speak to others about Jesus when you have the opportunity and set an example of lifestyle evangelism for the members of your group. They will be much more likely to follow your example than they will be to simply do what you tell them to do. Ask the group to discuss this and then ask them to think through the list of people you have been praying for each week. Discuss how we can be more aggressively involved in sharing the good news with these folks for whom God has burdened us. We will pray for these people tonight and each night we're together until they come to Life Group, or come to Christ through some other means. Have each couple or individual share the name of one couple/person to pray for and then ask one of the other people in the group to pray for them.

Close your time together in prayer.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Singapore Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Core, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Singapore Facilities

- CCF Singapore Center
- Equipments

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends