

Leader Guide

Key Scriptures

“So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Matthew 6:31 NIV

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 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.

“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. 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. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples..” John 15:1-8 NIV

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:42-47 NIV

Build Relationships - *The goal of this time is to help your group bond together.*

- Consider starting with one of the following options:
 - Find a fun game to help people get to know each other.
 - Have some snacks and allow people to mingle. Provide an icebreaker question to help people chat as they mingle.

Start Talking - *The goal of this time is to help people ease into serious conversation with each other.*

- **Read Matthew 6:31**
 - **Question:** What do you think it means for us to “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness?” On a scale of 1-10 how would you say you doing at “seeking first his kingdom?”

Watch Content - *Spend the next 10-15 minutes watching the teaching video.*

Talk about John 15:1-8 *Spend a few minutes helping your group reflect on the this passage of scripture.*

- **Read John 15:1-8**
- **Question:** Can someone summarize what we just read for us?
- **Question:** What do you think it means to “remain in” Jesus? Why does Jesus tell us this is an important thing to do?
 - *The big idea is that we are trying to stay connected to Jesus. Our faith cannot survive outside of a connection to Jesus. Some of things this includes are: prayer, studying and cherishing God’s Word, worship, etc.*
- **Question:** What do you think it means to bear fruit in this instance?
 - *Bearing fruit is the idea that our life produces the types of things that come from following Jesus. Good examples of this are loving others, serving, the fruit of the spirit (Gal 5:22-23), etc.*
- **Question:** What does it practically look like for us “remain in” Jesus?
 - *This could include anything from spending time in prayer and scripture, worship, intentionally obeying Jesus, looking for his guidance in our decisions, including Jesus in how we raise of our families, and many other things.*

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Leader's Lesson Notes

Talk about Acts 2:42-47 - Spend a few minutes helping your group reflect on this passage of scripture.

- **Read Acts 2:42-47**
- **Question:** What strikes you about this passage? Why?
- **Question:** What were the things these early Christians were doing together? Why do you think those things were important for them to do?
 - Try to tie this back to the idea of remaining in Jesus. The early Christians were trying to remain in Jesus together.
- **Question:** What does it look like for us to do those types of things in today's world and why are they important for us? Are there any things in your life you need to give less attention to to be able to find time for the things that help us stay connected to Jesus?
 - Again, try to tie this back to the idea of remaining in Jesus.
- **Group Reflection:** Ask your group to take a minute to think about the application from the video teaching. Ask them to write out a plan for how they are going to try to stay connected to Jesus? The plan needs to include the following; a time each day, a place, and the process of what they plan to do.

Take Action - Encourage your group to act on what they have learned today by taking one or more of the following steps.

- **Say:** This week, pre-decide that you are going to be fully devoted to Jesus and that you are going to try to find time each day to stay connected to him. To help you do that, you can.
 - Call someone in the group this week and tell them the plan you made to help you stay connected to Jesus. Tell them the specifics and ask them to follow up with you in a few days to see how its going.
 - Find a Bible reading plan on the YouVersion Bible App to help you consistently read God's Word.

Pray Together - Gather prayer requests and find a way to have your group pray for each other. Either break into smaller groups or go around the circle and give everyone a chance to pray if they would like. You can close with the following prayer.

Pray: Lord, we thank you for being a God that wants to keep a connection with us. Knowing you is good and we want to know you more. We pray you give us the motivation and discipline to find time to stay connected to you. Help us this week to bear fruit as we stay connected to you. Amen.