

LIFE GROUP LESSON

I AM • Week of May 14

Introduction

In the world of aviation, there is a term called the 'Jesus Nut' – the main bolt that holds the rotor blades to the helicopter. If that bolt fails, everybody in that helicopter is going to meet Jesus. Connection is vital in aircrafts, space crafts, sea vessels, railway locomotives, vehicles, motorcycles, any machine transporting individuals from point A to point B. Have you ever thought about how each of us is on our way from point A to point B as we journey through life? Whether we realize it or not, are willing to acknowledge it or not, life on Earth is short compared to eternity. One day, we will find ourselves in the portals of eternity. Are we ready to meet Jesus, the One who is the source of life, the only One who can transport us to heaven?

Background

It has been said that life is all about relationships. Though aircrafts are not a thing in Jesus' day, Jesus uses the illustration of a branch connected to a vine as he speaks to his disciples about their need for him. John, chapter fifteen, positioned in the farewell passages, leads us to believe that Jesus shared these truths with the eleven on the eve of his crucifixion. Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, had already left (John 13:30); Jesus now instructs these remaining disciples to *continue to remain* in him. Jesus washed their feet and told them he was going to prepare a place for them. Now he says, "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid" (John 14:27). The presence of Christ dispels all fear and frees his disciples to live into a new commandment, to 'Love one another' (John 15: 12, 17).

Read John 15:1-17

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Followers of Christ are no better than anyone else. In fact, once an individual invites Jesus to come into their lives and lead them, that person is held to a higher standard to love. How do we love Jesus and others? By bearing fruit. Every branch that belongs to the vine is expected to bear fruit (for definition of fruit, see John 4:36). Jesus said, "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned" (v5-6). The Lord Jesus is the only source that allows the branches to be productive and fruitful. We are responsible to do our part: remain in Jesus. Think about (discuss) what *remaining in Jesus* looks like for you?

2. What are you going to do about it?

Remaining – *abiding in Jesus, the vine* – is a verb and requires action. Abiding in Jesus is intentional and means we are to do our part to stay connected to the Lord Jesus. Are you walking by faith or by fear? Are you abiding in Jesus, or walking away from Jesus? Are you prioritizing the things that are most important to you: your relationship with the Lord, your marriage and family, your finances and resources God has given you to steward, or are you wasting the gifts he has given you? Are you honoring the Lord in the workplace, sharing the love of Christ with people in your sphere of influence, or do you care? The fruit you bear will outlast your job.

3. How can we help you?

Just as branches on a healthy grapevine are intertwined to interdependently bear the load when fruit starts to come in, we are called to bear the load for one another. This goes beyond personal prayer concerns (though important). Healthy branches help support, love, encourage, and disciple the harvest of souls the Lord is going to call forth, the people who have yet to belong. Sometimes we can get way too fixated on ourselves, and the people who are already a part of the vine. What

about the fruit yet to be harvested? Read together Christ Church’s mission statement below, a two-part charge to which we are all called as devoted followers –

To reach millions of unchurched persons by developing thousands of fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

In Closing

On a scale of 1-to-10, how fruitful are you? There is always room for improvement, thus, how can we be more fruitful for the Lord? We must know the Source of life. Jesus said, “I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener... When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father” (John 15:1, 8). Take a moment, and in a word or two, share at least one takeaway from this weekend’s message outline. Though we have limitations, the Lord has no limitations. Jesus said, “You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name” (v16). What will you ask Jesus for?

Close in a Time of Prayer asking:

How can I pray for my fellow Life Group participants this week?

One Year Bible Reading

May 14: 1 Samuel 15:1-16:23, John 8:1-20, Psalm 110:1-7, Proverbs 15:8-10

May 15: 1 Samuel 17:1-18:4, John 8:21-30, Psalm 111:1-10, Proverbs 15:11

May 16: 1 Samuel 18:5-19:24, John 8:31-59, Psalm 112:1-10, Proverbs 15:12-14

May 17: 1 Samuel 20:1-21:15, John 9:1-41, Psalm 113:1-114:8, Proverbs 15:15-17

May 18: 1 Samuel 22:1-23:29, John 10:1-21, Psalm 115:1-18, Proverbs 15:18-19

May 19: 1 Samuel 24:1-25:44, John 10:22-42, Psalm 116:1-19, Proverbs 15:20-21

May 20: 1 Samuel 26:1-28:25, John 11:1-54, Psalm 117:1-2, Proverbs 15:22-23

I AM

Text: John 15:1-8

Plain Truth:

By _____ with Jesus we bear fruit but _____ we _____.

1) Source of an _____ Life

2) The _____ of the Abundant Life

A) _____ by Faith: _____ Your Life By Following _____.

B) _____ focused time.

C) _____ in intentional actions.

3) The _____ of the Abundant Life

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