

DAILY TIME**SECTION 1 | JOHN 15:1-11**

In John 15, as Jesus is heading to the Garden of Gethsemane, he starts speaking to his disciples about what's to come. He will soon be arrested and taken to be crucified, but it's interesting that during the final hours of Jesus' life, he doesn't list out a set of instructions for his followers. He doesn't hand out a five year plan for Gospel expansion or a list of 100 things to get done before the year 2020. He simply gives them a metaphor, "I am the vine, you are the branches...remain in me." Again and again, he repeats "remain in me." Our faith is not a list of to-do's, but instead flows from our growing from Christ.

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He 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. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain 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. ⁶If 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. ⁷If you

remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

❓ Jesus says "I am the vine, you are the branches." But clearly Jesus isn't literally a vine just like we aren't literally branches. So what does Jesus mean by this?

❓ How do you "remain" or stay connected to the true source of life?

SECTION 2 | JOHN 15:1-4

When we remain in Christ and ask him to sustain us, our lives change. We no longer operate out of our own strength, but out of the power of the Holy Spirit living within us. Jesus took our sin upon the cross and asked for one thing in return: for our love. He doesn't force us to choose him, but he loves us enough to give us the freedom to rely on him or to rely on our own strength.

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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.

- ① What is the purpose of pruning?
- ② Jesus says, “apart from me you can do nothing.” How do we stay connected to Jesus, so that our time here on Earth isn’t wasted?
- ③ Jesus freely chose to bear our sin on the cross, so that one day we could be reunited with him in paradise. Does this truth press you to move towards the Father?
- ④ How do branches “bear fruit?” What does it mean for us to “bear fruit?”

SECTION 3 | JOHN 15:5-8

The first twenty minutes of your day have incredible power to determine how you’re going to process the rest of your day. First thing in the morning your brain operates on something called Alpha waves. There’s a lot of power in what you think about first! In the morning you “win the day.” When we start our day with God and we ask him what he has for our day, we align our hearts and minds to be that of our Father.

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- ❓ What is your morning routine? What habits or loves is this routine teaching you?
- ❓ Are there healthy rhythms in your life that sustain you and keep you connected to Christ?
- ❓ What motivates you to spend time with God? What hinders you from spending time with him?

GROUP TIME

WEEK 7 - JESUS MINGLES IN DEAD WEEK

“Busy.” That’s what we all say when someone asks “How are you?” We seem to *pride* ourselves on having a lot of things to do. As a culture, it’s too hard for us to slow down and just be. Even during down time, we have to do *something*—like watch Netflix or listen to a podcast. College is no exception. Campus is always bustling with people and things to do and events to go to. From 6am to 2am there are people studying at Willy T, working at Starbucks, walking to Chem-Phys from K-Lot, picking up someone from The 90, eating lunch at Champs...the list goes on and on. Life never gets any slower. But does that mean we have to keep up?


What if your life looked different? What if in the midst of everyone else running around, you were the non-anxious presence in the room? Not to keep up an image of having it all together, but truly operating out of a different place than everyone around you. Maybe you are living from a place of solace and rest with God instead of living for your to-do list.

JOHN 15:1-11

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 What promises does Jesus give to those who remain in him, to you?

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❓ What's the purpose of spending time with the Father? Are there things you turn to before turning to God?

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❓ What are the rhythms in my life that aid or hinder me from living in constant communion with God?

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❓ Do you view spending time with God as a thing to check off your list or as an act of adoration to the Father? Does it make a difference? What if you don't feel like adoring?

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LIVING IT OUT

As a group, decide how you're going to apply something from this week's discussion. Write out what you decide here.

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