

WEEK FOUR:

JOHN 15:1-11

Reflect

Use one or both questions for private reflection and choose one to begin meaningful conversation in your Life Group.

R1 Think of someone you naturally turn toward because you know you will be welcomed. What has built that trust over time?

R2 Where in your life do you feel the most pressure to keep producing, fixing, or holding things together?

Grow in the Word

Spend most of your time in John 15:1-11. Galatians 5:22-25 will help you think more deeply about the fruit Jesus describes. Move slowly, and don't feel pressure to cover every question.

Stay Connected

Jesus gives His disciples a picture of a vine and its branches. A branch cannot produce fruit apart from the vine. In the same way, Jesus repeatedly calls His disciples to remain in Him and draw their life from Him.

Read John 15:1-11

G1 Look closely at Jesus' picture of the vine, branches, and gardener. What does each one do, and what does that show us about how life with Jesus works?

G2 How does Jesus' statement, "Apart from me you can do nothing," challenge the way you tend to think about spiritual growth?

G3 Why is staying connected to Jesus different from simply trying harder to become a better person? Where could that difference matter in your life right now?

Fruit That Follows

Jesus describes fruit as what grows from a life that stays connected to Him. Paul uses similar language when he describes the fruit that the Spirit produces: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Return to John 15:5-11 and read Galatians 5:22-25.

G4 What kind of "fruit" does Jesus seem to have in mind? How does Galatians 5 help fill out that picture?

G5 In John 15:9-11, how are love, obedience, and joy connected?

G6 Where do you see this kind of fruit growing in your life, and where would you like to see more of it?

Practice Together

Abiding is not another task or achievement to add to the list. It is learning to return to Jesus and depend on Him throughout everyday life.

Ask God for ears to hear, and take a few moments to reflect:

P1 Where in your life do you most need to hear Jesus' invitation to "remain in me"?

P2 What would it look like to return to Jesus and depend on Him in that area this week?

Choose one simple way to respond this week. It might be pausing to pray during a regular transition in your day, slowly reading a short passage of Scripture, taking a walk with God, or simply stopping to remember: Jesus, You are the vine. I need You.

Share your response with the group and pray for one another.
