

“Purpose”

A Personal or Small Group Experience

Perhaps one of the most significant questions we ask in our lives is something like, “What is my purpose? Why am I here? What does it mean to have a successful life?”

The vine and branches analogy that Jesus shares with us in John 15 gives some incredible insight into the “purpose-filled” life and vital information about how to live in this “purposefulness”! The entire analogy is about fruit-bearing in the kingdom of God! This “purpose in life” is coupled with “remaining or abiding “ in Christ so that it is actually Him that is producing the fruit through you and not you yourself!

There is a simplicity in life that comes with this singular focus of “connecting with Christ so you can bear fruit in His name!” I am reminded of the time Jesus led a man to this singular focus for life. He came at Jesus with deep theological questions about how to “get right with God” as if it was something to check off his “How to live the successful life!” list! Jesus respond very simply “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and Love your neighbor as yourself!” There it is—the essence of life “Love God and Love People” - “Love God in dynamic relationship and then bear fruit by Loving People !” The vine and branches analogy gets at this same thing. The primary focus of our lives should be on our relationship with Jesus and then our “fruit-bearing” energy will go out to others according to His plan and direction.

Read through **John 15:1-8** discussing and applying the power of this analogy in your own life!

Then read through the story mentioned earlier about Jesus focusing the man's life from “lists to succeed” to “relationships that give life”:

Matthew 22:34-40

Now take a look at one of many places where “fruit” of life with Jesus looks like. Remember the key to this fruit-bearing is not “trying real hard” but first “connecting to the vine” and then going at the fruitbearing with the real empowering of Jesus Himself!

Galatians 5:16-23

“I Am....”

The Vine You are the Branches”

“Connecting With God” Weekly Guide

This booklet is a resource to help you “Connect with God” this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

This Page has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

The Center Pages contain the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from www.pointofgracechurch.org

The Back Page has a study written specifically for a small group of people (or an individual) to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week’s theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week’s message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

Scripture & Meditation Guide - May 9-14

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on “words and phrases” which grab your heart’s attention.
Ask God, “What do You want me to hear?” “Why this word at this time?”
“How are You inviting me to respond?”

- 4) Pray everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!

Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him

Monday: John 15:1-4

Tuesday: John 15:5-8

Wednesday: John 15:9-11

Thursday: John 15:12-15

Friday: John 15:16-17

Saturday: Galatians 5:19-23