

Reflect: Regular times of prayer and solitude was more than a priority for Jesus. It was an essential habit that he built into his life. It prepared him for ministry, kept him close to God, revitalized his soul, equipped him for life and ministry, and helped empower him to face his own death.

[Q] Jesus was intentional about when and where he did his study. Where are you right now? Do you think this is the best type of place for you to find God? If not, then now is a good time to look for a new place.

[Q] How good are you at having regular quiet times? Is it a habit yet or is it still something you are struggling with? What things might be keeping you from having a richer devotional life?

[Q] What kinds of things did Jesus incorporate into his quiet time that are lacking in yours? Make a quick list of the things you may want to change.

Takeaway: Take the next few minutes and talk with God. Don't try and say the right things. Just be honest and have a conversation and see what God says.

Wrap up by writing down one thing that God doesn't want you to forget from this week's sermon and study and one thing that you can share with your Life Group this week?

life **GROUP**

Discussion Questions

[Q1] What do you remember about this week's sermon or personal study that has really stuck with you?

[Q2] What would be your ideal quiet time with God look like? Where would it be? What would you do?

[Q3] Jeff talked about abiding in the vine so that God can be the one to produce fruit in your life. What is the hardest thing about having a regular quiet time with God? What kinds of things get in the way?

[Q4] What are some bad or sinful habits from your old life that occasionally frustrate you by popping up in your new life that we can pray about as a group?

Group Prayer Requests

March 13th & 14th

LIFEINMOTION

Christ's Church of the Valley

Valley Center Campus and Offices:

1404 W. Covina Blvd., San Dimas, CA 91773
909.592.CCV2 (2282)

Lone Hill Campus:

700 S. Lone Hill Ave., San Dimas, CA 91773

Sermons and notes can be downloaded at:

www.ccvnow.com

sermon **NOTES**

How We Grow! **John 15: 1-8**

Possessing a deep internal passion to grow in Christ is one thing. To actually make progress toward Christ-likeness is another thing entirely. Many of us have failed so many times at the same thing that we have begun to wonder if growth is even possible. Well, Jesus says that it is! And in John 15 he tells us how. I grow in Christ:

I. By acknowledging my mistaken identity.

^{5a}"I am the vine; you are the branches."

Who is the vine?

Does the branch produce fruit or bear fruit?

How does the branch bear fruit?

II. By abiding in the Vine.

^{5b}"If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

^{7a}"If you remain in me and my words remain in you"

If remaining in the vine is the key to fruit bearing, how does one remain in the vine?

III. Through the discipline of daily Bible reading.

"Our ability to defeat sin will only be as great as our familiarity with the WORDS of God."

The renewed mind is one that is not saturated with or controlled by the thinking of the present world system but instead is saturated with and controlled by the word of God. This is what it means to abide!

So . . .

How do we bear fruit? *By abiding in the vine.*

How do we abide in the vine? *By remaining in Christ.*

How do remain in Christ? *By His words remaining in us.*

How do His words remain in us? *Through the discipline of daily Bible reading.*

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Psalms 119:105

IV. Through the discipline of solitude and prayer.

You and I host the presence of God. But that presence must be engaged. And it is engaged in solitude!

"All of man's troubles come from his unwillingness to sit alone in a room."

Blaise Pascal

God communicates His best stuff to you in solitude! The Spirit and the Word work together! These two disciplines keep us connected to the Vine and fruit is the automatic result!

personal **STUDY**

Jesus' Quiet Times

Background: Many people struggle through their quiet times and study of Scripture because they think of it as a religious obligation they do for God and not themselves. But it is through prayer, solitude and the study of God's word that we can abide in God and receive the guidance, strength and encouragement we need to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus.

Study: This week we are going to study Jesus' quiet time and look for how Jesus abided in God. Take out your journal or notepad and find a quiet place to study. As you read each passage, make sure to record your initial thoughts first and then answer the questions that follow.

- *Luke 4:1-15.* Who led Jesus out into the desert? How does Jesus respond to his temptations? What did this time of solitude and spiritual warfare prepare Jesus to do? (see 4:15-16).
- *Mark 1:35-39; Luke 5:15-16; 6:12-16.* When does Jesus choose to pray? Where does he go? Who went with him? How busy was Jesus during this time in his ministry?
- *Luke 11:1-13 and 18:1-8.* Look at each line in Jesus' prayer. What kinds of things does Jesus say we should pray for? What do these two parables teach you about an ideal prayer life?
- *Luke 22:39-46.* Where did Jesus go and why? Is this place familiar to him? What does he pray for and does it remind you of another passage of scripture you studied? How honest is Jesus in his prayer to God? How would you describe Jesus' spiritual condition? Now read 47-53. What has changed?