

Small Group and Personal Bible Study

Pastor Dennis Hadley

Memory Verse: John 15:5

I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Discovery Bible Study Lesson

1. Read and then write down the passage found in **John 15:5**
2. Next, rewrite **John 15:5** using your own words
3. What do you discover about Jesus from this passage? What do you discover about yourself in this passage?
4. What does God want you to do to obey in response to this passage?

Daily Bible Reading

- Day 1: 2 Kings 5:1-14
- Day 2: 2 Kings 5:15-27
- Day 3: 2 Kings 6:1-7
- Day 4: 2 Kings 6:8-23
- Day 5: 2 Kings 6:24-7:2

Lesson: Restoring Your Cutting Edge

1. Work through the Discovery Bible Study exercise above for John 15:5 as individuals. After reading John 15:5, our memory verse for the week, read it out loud as a group. Then share what God has revealed to you from this verse. What does he want you to obey?

Encourage people to do this on their own each week. This week, pause a moment before you begin the study and ask each person to do this privately. Then ask people to share before you begin teaching them so they can see how God reveals truth to them through His word.

This verse is what I call “my life verse” because God has spoken to me so loudly through it. He has taught me that I am called and created to bear fruit for Him but that bearing eternal fruit only comes through remaining connected and dependent on Jesus working through me. It does not come from me working for God. More important than what I do is how much I love and trust in God and remain in Him. Therefore, it is far more important that I daily read the word and pray to Jesus than anything else I can do. If I ever get too busy for God’s work that I do not stay connected (quiet time with Him in prayer and the Word) I may as well stop what I am doing because Jesus says, “apart from me you can do nothing.”

2. What do you think Jesus means when He says, “If a man remains in me and I in him?”

I think He is referring to being in an intimate love relationship that puts my hope and trust in Him. A relationship that so loves God I desire to worship Him with my very life and all that I do. I think it involves worship, prayer and the Word of God being a daily part of my life.

3. According to Jesus words in this verse what are we purposed to do in our lives as followers of Jesus? (Check out and compare with Matthew 4:19)

We are called to bear fruit. Jesus told us to follow Him and He would make us fishers of men. Bearing fruit that will last, eternal fruit (John 15:16) is the call Jesus has on our lives. It is the purpose of every follower of Jesus.

4. What is the condition of bearing fruit with our lives?

Remain in Him!

5. Read Galatians 6:7-10. What do you learn from this passage? How do you understand the words of this passage? (Compare these also with the verses of John 15:16-17)

I learn that part of bearing fruit is doing good to others. Jesus point out in John 15:16-17 that it involves loving one another. Galatians 6:10 points out that we are to do good to others and we will reap a harvest from our fruit, especially as we do good to those who belong to the family of God.

This brings me to an understanding that I am called to love and serve people. By reaching out (Mission - fishers of men) to those who do not know Jesus and sharing the good news, and by serving (Ministry - doing good) to those who are my brothers and sisters in Christ.

The life of a disciple could be summed up like this:

(The illustrations below; "the wheel" and "the disciples cross" are visual diagrams of the life of a disciple of Christ)

With Christ always at the center....

We have two relationships that are most important: Love God & Love Others

The first is vertical (Love God) and we love God in worship and prayer lifted up to Him and by being grounded in obedience to the Word of God.

The second is horizontal (Love People) and we love people through Christian fellowship as we minister through serving those who are part of God's family and we witness as a mission to the world as we reach out to those who do not yet know Him.

This is all done out of obedience to God!

