

Growing to be like Christ

Session 3

Our lives together begin with
having faith in Jesus and then
with others who are following him too.
as you deepen these connections.

connections-
sharing time
It grows

Jesus uses the image of a grapevine to
intimate connection you need for spiritual growth.

Beginning:



Tell more of your story. Outline where you have lived and any interesting places
you have travelled.

Who has helped your spiritual growth recently?

ABIDING IN CHRIST

I Am the True Vine

John **15** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. **2** Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3** Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. **9** As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **11** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. **15** No longer do I call you servants,[a] for the servant[b] does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. **17** These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

The picture Jesus paints is a vivid one and the disciples would have immediately identified the significance of the vine in giving support and supplying water, minerals and food produced in it's leaves for the many branches to stay alive and produce fruit.

Staying Close To The Source Of Life

John 15:5

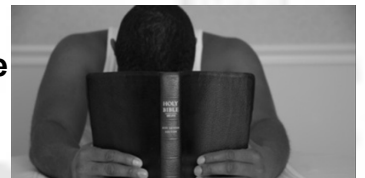
Bible Study:

1. What can we learn from this image of our connection to Jesus?
2. In practical day-to-day terms, how does a person go about making a home in Jesus?
3. Even though we are as connected to Jesus as a vine to a branch, what are some of the things that can hinder us from enough nourishment from Jesus?
4. When we make our home in the vine, we bear fruit. What does a fruitful Christian life look like?
5. Some of us try hard to be fruitful but don't put much time into making our home in Jesus. This effort is futile. There is no way to bear real fruit without drawing on the nourishment of an intimate connection with Jesus Christ.

Use the survey below to reflect on your own fruitfulness.

I have a growing relationship with God through regular time in the Bible and in Prayer.

12345



I am experiencing more of the characteristics of Jesus Christ in my life.



12345

I am avoiding addictive behaviours (food, TV, busyness, wine, etc) to meet my needs.

12345

I am spending time with a Christian friend (spiritual partner) who celebrates and challenges my spiritual growth.

12345



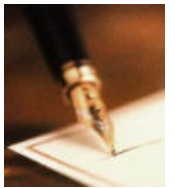
Jesus spoke these words to his 12 closest friend on the last night they were together. Heart to heart, what do you think Jesus would say to you about areas where your scores are low?

Helpful resources:Bible in a year app: <http://www.bibleinoneyear.org>Daily bible verse on: <http://www.westchurchbangor.org.uk>Daily readings on Word for today: <http://www.ucb.co.uk/word-for-today.html>**24-7 PRAYER**<http://www.24-7prayer.com/blog>When you take time with God it is good to **READ, REFLECT, RESPOND.**

Possible Daily Readings				
Week 1		Week 2		Week 3
	Luke 6:43-45		Galatians 6:9-10	Acts 1:8
	Luke 6:46-49		Acts 9: 32-42	John 13:35
	1 Peter 2:2-3		Phil 2: 19-22	Matt 13: 1-9
	Psalms 119:165		Exodus 35: 20-29	Matt 13: 18-23
	Matthew 5:6		Matt 25: 37-40	Matt 9: 35-38
				Romans 12: 1-2
				1 Peter 2: 4-5
				Luke 1:26-38
				Genesis 22:1-8
				Matt 5:8

Try Journaling your times with the Lord: any notebook can be used- this is a

possible approach:

TODAY'S PASSAGE:**REFLECTIONS FROM MY HEART:****I HONOUR WHO YOU ARE (PRAISE GOD)****I EXPRESS WHO I AM NOT (CONFESS ANY KNOWN SIN)****I AFFIRM WHO I AM IN YOU (How does God see you?)****I REQUEST YOUR WILL FOR ME. (ask God for something)****I THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE****TODAY'S ACTION STEP:****PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER**

Live in me.
Make your home in me
just as I do in you.

John 15:4 (The Message)

