

Life Group Homework

For the week of May 13, 2018

MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) In what ways did you find greater dependence on Christ this week?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

John 15:1-5(ESV)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every 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. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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.

- 4) From the passage, who is the vine referring to?
- 5) What does He tell us to do as the branches?
- 6) What does the word abide mean, and how do we go about doing it?
- 7) How do these verses illustrate the idea of our dependence on Christ?
- 8) If we don't abide in Him what does the verse say about our ability to bear fruit?

TAKING IT HOME

This week we learned that we are chosen to be the church. We are going to unpack a couple of thoughts as to what this means but more significantly what it should mean in our interactions with each other in the church.

1 Corinthians 13:1-10(NLT)

¹If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. ³If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

⁴Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

⁸Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! ⁹Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! ¹⁰But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.

- 9) Many times people use this passage in 1 Corinthians to describe marriage, however this is not the context of the passage. From the passage, what is the apostle Paul talking about?
- 10) Why does Paul describe love as greater than the spiritual gifts?
- 11) From the passage, what are the characteristics of love?
- 12) What would your life look like if love was the greatest gift God lived out through you?

Ephesians 4:1-4 (NLT)

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ²Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

- 13) What is Paul's challenge to the church regarding how they should treat each other?
- 14) How can your Life Group live this out with each other?
- 15) What would your life be like if you had a safe place to share your struggles where people would love you and walk with you as you struggle and learn to depend more on Jesus?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read Ephesians 4.

- 16) What is Paul teaching about the church?
- 17) What in your life needs to shift to be more dependent on Jesus?
- 18) What do you need to stop doing to be more like Jesus?
- 19) Who is God putting on your heart to pray for this week? Pray for them and check in on them if you are able to.

FAMILY RESOURCES

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-10 with your kids and answer the following questions together:

- 1) What does the Apostle Paul say is the most important thing? Why?
- 2) Think of a recent family argument. How could the argument have been different if everyone involved remembered to behave like verses 4-7? How would the atmosphere of our home be different?
- 3) As a family, are we kind and gentle with our words? How can we improve? (Parents: this is a time when it is really important for you to lead the way with forgiveness. If the Holy Spirit brings to light any situations where you were harsh with your children or spouse, be quick to ask them for forgiveness. This will go a long way in modeling true Christian faith to your children, as well as opening a door for healing for your children and your entire family.)
- 4) Do we keep records of wrong in our family?
- 5) Are there any family members that we need to forgive or that we need to ask to forgive us?

End with a time of prayer and reconciliation if issues of forgiveness arise.

May 13, 2018 | PASTOR CHERYL BANGS

Chosen to be the Church

John 15:5 (NLT)

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”

Chosen to **REMAIN** in Christ.

What happens when we remain?

ATTACHMENT to Jesus.

An **OUTER EVIDENCE** that the Holy Spirit lives in us.

Which results in the following:

The ability to pray with **CONFIDENCE**.

ASSURANCE that we can be **CONFIDENT** of Jesus' love for us.

JOY which is beyond mere happiness - it is a deep abiding tranquility that is free from worry.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

What does this LOVE look like?

Love is **PATIENT**, love is **KIND**. It does not **ENVY**, it does not **BOAST**, it is not **PROUD**. It does not **DISHONOR** others, it is not **SELF-SEEKING**, it is not **EASILY ANGERED**, it keeps no **RECORD OF WRONGS**. Love does not **DELIGHT IN EVIL** but **REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH**. It always **PROTECTS**, always **TRUSTS**, always **HOPES**, always **PERSEVERES**.

YOU
ARE
CHOSEN

A STUDY IN EPHESIANS