

# VILLAGE

## CHURCH

### Bible Study Notes

**Intro:** how would you describe your relationship with Jesus at the moment?

**Pray:** For Village to be deeply grounded in Christ

**Read:** John 15:1-11

#### **What does the text say & mean (observe/comprehend):**

- What is Jesus saying about himself? See also John 14:6-7.
- What does Jesus mean by fruit/fruitful? How do we bear fruit?
- What is the ultimate purpose for the Father's gardening (see v.8)? How is human fruitfulness glorifying to God?
- How do we remain in the love of Christ?

#### **What does the text mean for us (apply):**

- How do we get his words to remain in us? Is it only strictly Jesus' words (consider Psalm 1 & John 1)?
- How does God's word help us to bear fruit to the glory of God?
- What might be the difference between simply 'reading' God's word and having them remain in you?
- How has God's word helped you to bear fruit this year?
- What's one way you could get God's word to remain in you more?
  - a) Individually
  - b) As a group

**Pray:** that God would help us to remain in Christ and bear good fruit?

**Homework:** start a new habit that helps you remain in God's word

**Remind:** Village Celebration 18<sup>th</sup> September.

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Over the next three weeks we are going to consider what it means to be Grounded in Christ, Living in Community.

- Week 1 we'll examine how we can be deeply Grounded in Christ and why.
- Week 2 is exploring Living in Community as God's people (as a Church) and then
- Week 3, it's Living in Community with the people of our town (non-Christians).

#### **What does the text say & mean (observe/comprehend):**

- **What is Jesus saying about himself? See also John 14:6-7.**

He is the vine, we are the branches. We are only alive/connected to the life of the vine if we are grafted on to Christ through faith.

- **What does Jesus mean by fruit/fruitful? How do we bear fruit?**

Fruitfulness is what we do. We were made to bear good fruit such as the fruits of the Spirit. But we can only bear good fruit if we are connected to the vine.

- **What is the ultimate purpose for the Father's gardening (see v.8)? How is human fruitfulness glorifying to God?**

We were made and grafted into Christ to bear fruit for God's glory. Just as a gardener is glorified/praised for the quality & size of their produce, so is God glorified by the fruits of his people.

- **How do we remain in the love of Christ?**

We remain in Christ through his words. This is how we know he loves us and how we love him in return.

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### Bible Study Notes

**How does the text point forward to Jesus:**

- **How do we get Jesus' words to remain in us? Is it only strictly Jesus' words (consider Psalm 1 & John 1)?**

The whole Bible is the 'word of God', spoken to us by the Son who incarnates as Jesus. We remain in Christ and his words remain in us by meditating on God's word.

- **How does God's word help us to bear fruit to the glory of God?**

God's word shows us how to bear fruit for God - as in, what it is that God designed us for. In Jesus (and through many other examples) we also see what bearing good fruit looks like. Also, God's word helps us to remember why we bear good fruit.

- **What might be the difference between simply 'reading' God's word and having them remain in you?**

We can read God's word and yet take nothing in. Remaining in Christ and having his word remain in us requires ongoing reflection, memorisation and implementation.

- **How has God's word helped you to bear fruit this year?**

Encourage the group to reflect on their year and how God's word has impacted them.

- **What's one way you could get God's word to remain in you more?**

**a) Individually**

**b) As a group**

Take this opportunity to be practical and reflective, helping each other problem solve the obstacles and keep each other accountable.