

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

THRIVING IN JESUS

John 15:1-11

Pastor George Clerie – June 29, 2014

In Sunday's message, Pastor George gave three keys from John 15 to thrive in your relationship with Jesus:

1. Get connected to Jesus
2. Stay connected to Jesus: daily intake of the Word & obedience to
3. Respond to the Father's pruning

In the study for this week, let's dig a little deeper into what it means to abide in Jesus and to bear fruit for the Father's glory.

MEMORY VERSE

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. (John 15:5)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

The take-home assignment from last week's study was to spend time meditating on God's word "day and night." How did spending time in God's word this week impact your thinking? What is one thing that God showed you through his word?

STUDY QUESTIONS

→ **Read Colossians 1:9-14**

In these verses, Paul shares the content of what his ministry team is praying for the Christians in Colossae. As in other writings from Paul, this passage contains multiple modifying phrases that make it challenging to see the core message of what he is saying, so let's wade in and unpack this passage:

- What is the first request that Paul's team is praying for the Colossians (v9)?



- What three results of this filling does Paul describe in verse 10?
- How does one become filled with the knowledge of God’s will?
- What does it look like to “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord?”
- What is the second request the Paul’s team prays for in verse 11?
- What are the results be strengthened with power (v11-12)?
- Why do you think Paul included verses 13-14 in telling them about the prayers?
- What Paul is asking for this church can only come from God. What impact would it have in your life if you were “filled with the knowledge of his will” and “strengthened with all power?”

GROUP ACTIVITY

Pray: Break up into groups of 2 or 3 and pray for the request of Colossians 1:9-12 for each other

Discuss: What area(s) in your life need to be pruned off in order to walk in a manner that pleases the Lord? Ask God to prune away this week! Share with the group and ask for encouragement and accountability to walk in obedience to Jesus.

Take home assignment:

1. Continue meditating on God’s Word “day & night” (Josh 1:8) – if you are doing the 21-day challenge, continue reading the gospel of John, chapters 8-14 this week.
2. Read Colossians 1:15-20 and spend 10 minutes praising Jesus for every attribute revealed in these verses
3. On another day, read Colossians 1:21-23 and spend 5 minutes thanking Jesus for his amazing gift of salvation. If any of the words are unclear (alienated, reconciled, etc.), look them up in a dictionary or Bible dictionary (available online at www.biblegateway.com)



