



JOHN CHAPTER 15 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What is one thing outside of God that you rely on to get you through your day?
- Opening Prayer
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.

Read the Story (John 15:1-27)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

John 15:1-7

- What did the disciples of Jesus understand about Jesus' teaching that He is the vine with His Father being the vinedresser?

- In the Old Testament, the nation of Israel was frequently referred to by God as His vineyard with Him being the one who was the vinedresser, the one on which the vineyard was created by and completely dependent. This teaching had incredible applicability and significance to the disciples because they would have understood that Jesus was talking about their connection to Him and His connection to them. There were also grapevines all over Israel and the vine itself was a symbol of the Messiah, so Jesus is identifying Himself as the true vine.
 - What are some things in this world that are easy to attach ourselves to over and above Jesus? What are some things that you personally struggle with attaching yourself to over and above Jesus?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
 - In what ways do you need to be more fully dependent on Jesus and His provisions and solutions rather than your own?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- What does it mean to “bear fruit” as a disciple of Jesus and how does one go about “bearing fruit?”
 - Bearing fruit as a disciple has very little to do with “our work” and “effort” as human beings. Consider that the branches didn’t and don’t have to tell themselves to bear fruit. Rather, their connection to the vine/tree is what allows them to bear fruit. Bearing fruit for a disciple of Jesus is getting the Father’s (Holy Spirit’s) results as I/we position ourselves for deeper connection with Him/Them.

- In what ways can you see that you are receiving your results because of your lack of connection with the Father and Holy Spirit?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- In what ways do you need to position yourself more fully for better and deeper connection with the Father and Holy Spirit?
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John 15:8-17

- Notice that Jesus connects love to obedience by first pointing to His own example of His love for the Father being expressed in obedience. Notice also that Jesus didn't obey to be loved. Rather, because He was loved and because He realized He was loved, He obeyed.
 - How would your obedience to the Father look different if you sought to more fully embrace the love that God has for you? How would your love for others look different if you sought to more fully embrace the love that God has for you?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- "No one is more miserable than the Christian who for a time hedges in his obedience. He does not love sin enough to enjoy its pleasures and does not love Christ enough to relish holiness. He perceives that his rebellion is iniquitous, but obedience seems distasteful. He does not feel at home any longer in the world, but his memory of his past associations and the tantalizing lyrics of his old music prevent him from singing with the saints. He is a man most to be pitied; and he cannot forever remain ambivalent." (Carson)

- What do you think this quote means? Do you agree or disagree with it?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

John 15:18-27

□ When you read through this text, how do you think that we as disciples should respond to opposition and resistance that directly comes because of being faithful and obedient to God? Before you answer this question, read 1 Peter 2:23.

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
 - Consider the following questions.
 - How do you allow the Holy Spirit to lead the charge in your conversations and interactions with others?
 - How do you listen to others with the Holy Spirit leading the charge in your conversations and interactions with others?
 - How do you point to God's word rather than your own opinions and preferences in your conversations and interactions with others?
 - Do you open God's word in your conversations and interactions with others?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (John Chapter 16)



JOHN CHAPTER 15 (STUDENT)

John 15:1-7

- What did the disciples of Jesus understand about Jesus' teaching that He is the vine with His Father being the vinedresser?
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 - In what ways do you need to be more fully dependent on Jesus and His provisions and solutions rather than your own?
- What does it mean to "bear fruit" as a disciple of Jesus and how does one go about "bearing fruit?"
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