



Week 6 – The Vine

Announcements

Easter Services - Celebrate Easter at Church of the King. Come experience hope and the power of the resurrection at one of eleven identical and creative services in our three locations April 3rd – 5th. This will be a great service for anyone who has never been to church before, so think about anyone who you'd like to invite to experience the true meaning of Easter at Church of the King. For service times, visit our website at www.churchoftheking.com

Women's Night – On Tuesday, April 21, all women are invited to hear guest speaker and nationally renowned author Lisa Terkeurst at 7PM at our Little Creek Campus. Join us and bring a friend for a night of fellowship, worship, a powerful message!

Warm-up

What is your personal experience with gardening? In your experience, what are some important things to focus on when trying to grow and cultivate plants?

Word and Application

In John 15, Jesus was speaking to the disciples during his final hours before going to the cross. He talked to them about the abundant life, which is a term used to describe the blessings that God wants to give us now while we are on Earth. He encouraged them that the key to an abundant life is to cultivate a deeper relationship with God.

To illustrate this concept, he used the picture of a vine and its branches, showing that the branches draw life and nutrition from the vine to which they are connected. In the same way

believers, like the branches, should abide, or remain closely connected to God through prayer and obedience, so that we can draw as much life from God as possible.

To gain a closer relationship with Jesus, it helps to understand how we can remain connected with Him. Let's take a look at **Three Ways To Abide in Christ** as revealed in Scripture.

1. Jesus is the true vine.

Read John 15:1-5. Notice that Jesus calls Himself the "true" vine. This means that there are also "false" vines out there that you could be connected to. There are so many things out there that we could connect with in order to try and find contentment, but nothing satisfies like God.

What are some of the "false" vines that you see people trying to connect with? What happens when we try to get life from one of these other sources?

2. We are the branches.

Read John 15:5-7. Branches, on their own, have no life. Break off a branch and it quickly dies. Likewise, we only have access to the abundant life when we maintain our connection to Jesus through prayer, reading the Word, and a desire to always grow spiritually.

How have you experienced difficult times when you have tried to make things happen on your own without staying connected to Christ?

Read Galatians 2:20. This is a great description of the blessings we receive when we choose to draw life from Christ.

What is one step you can take in the near future to deepen your connection to Christ?

3. The Father is the farmer.

Reread John 15:1-2. Just as the farmer works hard to tend to the vine so it bears the most fruit, so our Heavenly Father works in our life to ensure that we can connect with Christ as deeply as possible. Two ways that He does this are:

- o He takes away any "excess" that keeps us from reaching our potential. Things like worry, selfishness, and negativity keep us from our potential.
- o He prunes unfruitful branches – these can be relationships in our life that hinder us in our walk with God. He can lovingly remove those from us.

Have you ever seen God tending to your life in this way? How did this work out for you in the end?

How have you been impacted by this week's lesson?

Prayer

Close in prayer by asking God to give us the ability to connect more deeply with Him. Ask Him

to remove anything that hinders us from a closer walk with Him.