

SPIRITUAL GROWTH PART 2

Intimacy with Jesus

John 15:1-11

MAIN POINT: Growth as a follower of Jesus occurs as we nurture intimacy with Jesus.

CORE TRUTH – It is impossible to grow into Christ-likeness without consistently spending time with Jesus.

It can be easy to slip into thinking that if we try harder we will grow spiritually. We can put so much emphasis on our efforts to change that we often fail to realize that growth does not start with us. It starts with Jesus.

READ TOGETHER: John 15:1-11

Discussion Question: How would you sum up this passage in your own words?

Key Insight: *To “abide” or “remain” means “to stay”. It communicates the idea of “making a home with” or “living in.”*

Discussion Questions:

- How does the image of Vinedresser, Vine, branches, and fruit help you understand the dynamics of spiritual growth and intimacy with Jesus?
- Jesus talks about being pruned in verse 2? What do you think He means and why is it important in our growth towards following Him more fully?

God often uses challenges of life to reveal things about us that need to change. We will grow as we learn to embrace those challenges and allow god to work.

Discussion Questions:

- *In verse 5-8 Jesus makes it clear that “a part from me (Him) you can do nothing” and the importance of His Word. What do you think He means by “nothing”? How have you experienced the importance of His Word in your spiritual growth?*
- *Read verses 9-11. How do these verses help you understand God’s heart for your growth?*

SHARE: Spend a few minutes asking group members to share how they practically nurture intimacy with Jesus. *Be prepared to walk through how to have an effective quiet time.*

QUIET TIME TIPS

- Set a time and place.
- Have a Plan of what you will read.
- Ask these questions as you read. *What does this passage teach me about God? What does this teach me about following Jesus more fully? What do I need to do or how do I need to change because of this passage?*
- Pray in response to what you have read and for other needs you are aware of.

Question: How can we as a group encourage one another to consistently pursue intimacy with Jesus?

Closing: Spend time praying for God to give each of you a greater desire for intimacy with Him.