



Everything Alive In Jesus Grows

Week of October 11, 2015

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

When you spend time with Jesus you will grow. The only way not to grow is to be away from Jesus.

Read John 15:1-8

All over our nation the church is declining. This should not be so according to Jesus' words in the book of John. It's time to get back into the presence of Jesus and watch the his fruit grow through us. Everything is broken and needs redemption which is why we must choose daily to stay in the fight. We will have everything we need as we remain in Jesus, we only need to choose the fight.

Challenge: Don't confuse religious knowledge with loving Jesus. Go back home, and return to life from the heart of Jesus. Expect spiritual growth and to live a life of high impact. Find your Mission/Ministry in life and get on with it!

Pray

Lord, I want to grow. All healthy things grow, and I know this is what you are calling me to do. Help me return my attention to you daily so that I can make an impact for you in this world. Make me alive, make my church alive, bring 5000 people to worship at Severn Run with me. Help us to stay in the fight. Amen!

#StayInTheFightatSR

Getting Started

- Is there a person in your family history that you credit for helping you become the person you are today? How did they do that?
- When you were a child, what was most exciting to you about growing up? Why?

Listening Deeply

1. Pastor Drew mentioned that Jesus was not a "nice" guy. What qualities did Jesus put above being nice? Why?
2. Read John 15:1-8. What does it mean to "bear much fruit"? Why is it important for us as Christ-followers to bear fruit?
3. In verse 2, Jesus says that "every branch that does bear fruit (his Father) prunes..." What does this say to you about growing and how it might take shape in your life?
4. Why are seasons of non-growth so dangerous for a Christ-follower? For his/her family? For the Church? How do we break the cycle of comfort?
5. 85% of churches in America are plateaued or declining. Why do you think this is true?
6. The Church is not a building. You are the Church! Since this is true, do you think you are part of the reason for the Church's decline in America? How have you or how can you contribute to the Church's growth?
7. One of our challenges is to get busy redeeming what's broken in the world. How do we do that?

Living Wide in Jesus

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you." - John 15:7

Knowing that if we choose to stay in the fight and remain in Jesus we will have all we need, it's time to make a serious choice. Stay in the fight, or contribute to the decline and death around us. Our mission is clear (Matthew 28:19-20), we must go! How you go is up to you. Discuss with your group how you can "go" within these areas: 1) Your immediate sphere of influence; 2) The Church at Severn Run; 3) Beyond your comfort zone.