

The CHOSEN - Season 5 - Episode 6 - Study Guide

Main Passage: John 15:1-11

Study Guide Overview

As the time of Jesus' arrest draws near, He shares with His disciples what it means to stay connected to Him. The episode depicts much misunderstanding and confusion about who Jesus is and why He was doing things that seemingly were alienating people from following Him and agitating religious leaders and the governing authorities. Believers will be encouraged to deepen their attachment to Jesus in their lives here and now while being mindful that their connection with Him can produce eternally lasting results.

Group Conversation Starter

Have you ever tried to grow a fruit or vegetable bearing plant or tree? Was it difficult? Were you able to enjoy any fruits or vegetables from your work?

Bible Passages

Mark 14:22-25

22 As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it, for this is my body."

23 And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

24 And he said to them, "This is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many.

25 I tell you the truth, I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new in the Kingdom of God."

John 15:1-11

1 "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.

2 He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.

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- 3 You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you.
- 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.
- 5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.
- 6 Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.
- 7 But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!
- 8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.
- 9 “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.
- 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.
- 11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

Questions and Next Steps Below

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Group Discussion Questions

1. Since their childhood, Jesus' disciples had practiced the Passover celebrating being freed from slavery in Egypt. Jesus completely changed the meaning of this tradition by saying it was to celebrate His sacrifice for humanity. What do you think was going through the minds of the disciples when they heard all of this new information? Do you think they understood all of its meaning or do you think that came later? (Mark 14:22-24)
2. In Jesus' teaching about the vine, what does Jesus represent and what do His followers represent? What did Jesus teach about the purpose of pruning? When the Father is pruning a Christian, does that mean He is displeased with them? Do all Christians go through seasons of pruning? Is this an enjoyable process? (John 15:1-5)
3. What does it mean to abide or remain in Jesus? What are some of the practices of a believer who is remaining in Jesus? Why is it so vital for a Christian to stay connected to the Vine? If a Christian is staying connected to Christ, does that mean they will be continuously producing fruit or are there seasons when fruit is not being produced? (John 15:7-10)
4. In the episode, so many people groups were misunderstanding Jesus. Do you think a person has to understand everything about Jesus before they can accept Him as Savior?

Personal Next Steps

- **Self-Check**
 - Jesus' teaching about staying connected to Him like a branch is attached to a vine, was intended to bring His followers joy. Are you experiencing joy in your day to day life or is there a disconnect robbing you from what He has for you?
 - Is your life helping convince others that Jesus is the Messiah?

Continuing the Conversation

Who could you have a faith conversation with that might eventually become "lasting fruit?"

Pray

Thank your heavenly Father for loving you as much as He loves His Son Jesus.