



Community Group Guide
Changes: Week 1
“Abide”
Week of March 22

Check-in

1. How are you doing with the changes due to COVID-19?
 2. Is there anyone you know who could use assistance getting food or medicine?
 3. Is there anyone you know who may be lonely or need encouragement due to the quarantine?
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Scripture

Read *John 15:1-8*

Key Point From Message

1. Christ makes change possible
 2. Change happens by remaining in Christ. We see this highlighted in 3 ways:
 - a. Branch removal: God will cut away branches that do not bear fruit
 - b. Pruning: God cuts away idols in our lives; the goal for spiritual growth is that we depend on the gospel more
 - c. Remain: Growth and change only happen by being connected to the Vine
 3. If you're not bearing fruit then you're not connected to the Vine
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Discover Questions

1. What stands out to you in this passage of Scripture?
2. Who is the author of this passage? Who is the target audience?
3. Jesus says he is the true vine. What is the significance of Jesus being the true vine?
4. In verse 5 how much does Jesus say we can do without Him?

Deepen

1. What challenged you about this week's message?
 2. Is your life bearing gospel fruit? What does it mean to bear fruit?
 3. Is there an area of your life God is pruning right now? What are some idols that are decreasing your dependence on God?
 4. Verse 7 instructs us to remain or to rest in Christ. Are you resting in the finished work of Jesus or are you trying to produce fruit on your own?
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Action Step

Jesus desires for us to rest in the gospel so that we can give God the glory He deserves! Reflect on what idols God is trying to prune in your life. Don't try to change these areas on your own, instead rest and remain faithful in the gospel. Encourage those around you to rest in the gospel as God prunes their lives.

Missions Focus: Local Food Pantries

Must Ministries

Must Ministries is a local organization founded in 1971 with the mission of being a servant leader for the communities in Marietta, Smyrna, Canton, and Cherokee County. Must Ministries helps to connect those who have a desire to help with those who need help the most. With the school closings, Must Ministries is collecting food to help feed at-risk students and their families. For more information go to mustministries.org.

Mosaic Church

Mosaic Church is a member of the SBC and the main food distribution point for local schools in the West Cobb area. They are currently collecting non-perishable food donations for the 1500 families that they serve. Donations can be dropped off at Mosaic Church (1528 Austell Rd, Marietta, Ga 30008) Mon-Thur from 9am-4pm. Go to <http://www.mosaicmarietta.org/covid19.html> for more information or to sign up to help pack boxes/monitor the computer lab for kids who are out of school.

Fair Oaks Elementary School

Fair Oaks Elementary School is one of the schools we have partnered with. They are currently in need of non-perishable food items (spaghetti, ramen, mac & cheese; foods that only need water and a microwave), diapers, and baby formula/food. Donations can be dropped off at Fair Oaks between 10am-noon (407 Barber Rd, Marietta, Ga 30060).

Contact Brooke@imageatl.com with any questions.

Prayer

Jesus thank you for being the true Vine that we could never be. We know that without you, even our good works fail to produce fruit. Help us to remain in you. Use our lives to show others where the true Vine is so they can grow from the source of true life. Prune our lives so that we may bring glory to Your will. Help us to use these times of uncertainty to bring glory to You!

Memory Verse

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight." -Proverbs 3:5-6 (CSB)

Announcements

- There will be no physical gathering on Sunday March 29. We will be broadcasting the service at 10:30am from our [website](#) and our [youtube channel](#)
- Go to <https://www.imageatl.com/covid19/> for the most recent updates

Additional Resources

Should Christians be anxious about the coronavirus?

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/christians-anxious-coronavirus/>

This is a great time for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus

<https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/dear-christian-when-the-pandemic-hits-this-is-our-time/>

How can I love my neighbor?

<https://www.imageatl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Love-Your-Neighbor-COVID-19.pdf>