

Dear Life Group Leaders,

Thank you so much for leading the people of Everyday Church and helping them to develop a growing faith in Jesus. What a blessing you all are to this church! May God bless you, as the Spirit reveals things of the Kingdom within your Life Group this week.

Much love,

Adam

(This week's Life Group Guide was prepared by Adam Bream, who leads Everyday Southfields)

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

John 15:1-17

This week's BIG IDEA: This week is the 7th and final 'I AM' statement from Jesus: *I am the Vine.*

Please read John 15:1-17.

1. v1-4, what thoughts or feelings does the simple imagery in these verses provoke in your minds? Is there anything that seems immediately unclear or confusing?
2. Are there any repeated words, phrases or ideas that run through this passage?
[Leaders note: The three main themes are about remaining in Jesus, bearing fruit, as well as lots about love.]
3. Let's focus our discussion on what it means to *remain in Him*.
 - a. How many times is that command given by Jesus in this passage?
[Leaders note: command, not just a nice idea or a helpful suggestion.]
 - b. What does it mean for someone to *remain*?
[Leaders note: think things like steadfast, enduring, continuing.]
 - c. In what other areas of life are we encouraged/expected to remain committed?
 - d. Why might this be a particularly significant statement from Jesus at this point?
[Leaders note: Jesus is now hours away from arrest and everything that His disciples had grown attached to within their relationship with Him is about to become very challenged and unsettled. He doesn't say this to whip them into shape, but to reveal His heart of deep compassion for them.]
 - e. Why is it important that we take these verses seriously? What things can be practiced in the normal routines of life that encourage us to *remain* in Christ and find replenishment in Him.
4. Let's spend some time discussing what it might look like to have a life that *bears fruit*.
 - a. What are the markers of a fruitful life in today's society?
[Leaders note: things like success, wealth, comfort, security, popularity, control, more material belongings, freedom from responsibilities.]
 - b. What kind of fruit does God want to develop within us?
[Leaders note: draw your groups attention to v9-17... there's lots about love!]
 - c. What has this love looked like in our lives so far? What could it look like in our lives moving forward?
 - d. Are you bearing fruit as a follower of Jesus? If not, why do you think that is?
5. What characteristic is in your life right now, that you want Jesus to bring transformation ('fruit') to?
[Leaders note: working on who you are primarily, not what you do.]

Time to pray. Let's be expectant that when we lay hands on one another and call out to God. The Spirit takes our incomplete and limited petitions and intercedes on our behalf before the Father. These verses remind us that He is the gardener of our lives and is tending to every aspect of who we are, as followers of His Son. Who is in your life that doesn't know this invitation to new life from Jesus? Take some time to pray for them by name – even if it might be the 100th time you've prayed for them! Keep going!