

Go Deeper

Disciple Group Leader Guide

TETHERED

Based on John 15

Opening

This week's message reminds us that everyone is tethered to something. We may be connected to fear, approval, past hurts, success, or unhealthy habits or we may be firmly connected to Christ. Jesus' invitation in John 15 isn't simply to believe in Him, but to abide in Him daily. Our spiritual strength doesn't come from trying harder; it comes from staying connected to the One who gives us life. Today, we'll take an honest look at what we're tethered to and consider how remaining connected to Jesus changes the way we live.

Ice Breaker

Think about a time you lost your connection. Whether it was internet service, a phone signal, or even getting separated from someone. How did it affect what you were trying to do?

Opening Prayer

Ask God to search our hearts, reveal anything that has taken His place in our lives, and help us remain deeply connected to Christ through His Word and His presence.

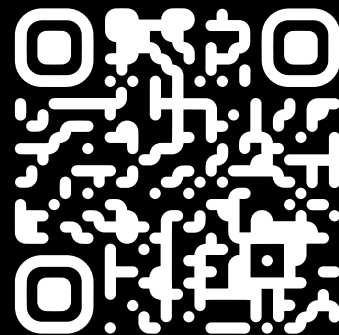
Read Together

John 15:1-8 & Hebrews 6:19

(Optional: Ask several group members to read portions of the passage.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Download the
Turning Point
App



TURNING POINT

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. Everyone Is Tethered to Something.

Whether we realize it or not, our lives are connected to something that influences our thoughts, decisions, and priorities. The question isn't if we're tethered, but what we're tethered to.

2. Remaining Connected to Jesus Produces Spiritual Fruit

Jesus calls us to abide in Him continually. Like a branch connected to the vine, lasting spiritual growth comes from staying connected to Christ rather than relying on our own effort.

3. Wrong Tethers Keep Us Stuck

Fear, offense, approval, addiction, unhealthy relationships, and lies can become invisible tethers that keep us from experiencing the freedom God desires.

4. God's Word Keeps Us Grounded

When emotions, opinions, and culture constantly change, Scripture remains our unchanging source of truth. God's commands are not restrictions, they are protection.

5. Jesus Is Our Anchor

Storms will come, but our hope is secure when it is anchored in Christ rather than in changing circumstances.

Discussion Questions

What Are You Connected To?: John 15:4–5

Jesus said to "abide" in Him.

- What do you think it practically means to abide in Christ?
- What are some things people commonly become tethered to instead of Jesus?
- How can we recognize when something has become an unhealthy attachment?

Seeking God's Direction: James 1:5

Before David pursued the enemy, he first sought God's direction.

- Why is it difficult to slow down and ask God for wisdom before acting?
- Can you share a time when following God's direction changed the outcome?

Life Beyond Failure: John 8:31–32

The message reminds us that strongholds are often built when lies are accepted as truth.

- *What are some common lies the enemy uses to keep people spiritually stuck?*
- *How does God's Word expose those lies?*
- *Why is it important to regularly fill our minds with Scripture?*

Go Deeper

God's Boundaries Bring Freedom: Psalm 119:105

Jesus calls His people to return when they've drifted.

- *Have you ever discovered that God's way was better than your own?*
- *What does perseverance look like in this season of your life?*
- *How has obedience strengthened your relationship with Christ?*

Returning to Your First Connection: Revelation 2:4–5

The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in believers.

- *Are there spiritual habits you've drifted away from?*
- *What is one practical step you can take this week to reconnect with God?*

Sermon Truth

- A healthy spiritual life isn't built on striving, it's built on staying connected to Jesus. The stronger our connection to Christ, the more stable, fruitful, and secure our lives become.

Leader Insight

- Many people won't immediately recognize what they're tethered to. Rather than focusing only on obvious sins, help your group identify subtle attachments like approval, control, worry, or resentment. Encourage honest reflection without creating shame. The goal is restoration, not condemnation.

Application

Ask each person to answer one or more of the following:

- What challenged you most from this week's message?
- *Is there anything you've become tethered to that God is asking you to release?*
- *Is there an area where you've become disconnected from God?*
- *What is one intentional way you'll stay connected to Jesus this week?*
- *How can this group pray for you specifically?*

Memory Verse: John 15:5 (CSB)

"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me."

Closing Challenge

This week, ask the Holy Spirit these two questions each day:

- What am I tethered to that Jesus is calling me to release?
- What have I become disconnected from that Jesus is calling me to return to?

Choose one practical step this week to strengthen your connection with Christ through prayer, Scripture, worship, or obedience.

This Week's Challenge

- Spend at least 15 minutes each day abiding with Jesus through prayer and reading His Word. At the end of the week, reflect on how staying connected to Him influenced your thoughts, attitudes, or decisions.

Closing Reflection

Before you leave, take a moment to consider:

- *What has been shaping my heart more than God's presence?*
- *Where have I allowed fear, approval, or distraction to replace dependence on Christ?*
- *What is one step I can take this week to remain more closely connected to Jesus?*

Take a moment of quiet reflection, then close the group in prayer.

Closing Prayer

Pray that God would:

- *Reveal unhealthy attachments in our lives.*
- *Strengthen our connection to Christ each day.*
- *Root us deeply in His Word.*
- *Help us remain steady through every storm.*
- *Produce lasting spiritual fruit through our lives.*

Leader Notes

- Encourage honest conversation without making anyone feel pressured to share personal struggles.
- Keep the discussion centered on abiding in Christ rather than simply avoiding unhealthy habits.
- Help participants move from awareness to action by identifying one practical way to stay connected to Jesus this week.
- Remind the group that spiritual growth is cultivated through daily dependence on Christ, not perfection.
- Follow up - reach out to group members during the week

Leader Reminder: Your role is to facilitate discussion, not reteach the message. Create space for God's Word to speak, encourage participation, and help each person identify a practical next step toward abiding in Christ.