

A/ Teaching

Bible Material – Key Points - based on John 15v1-17, Luke 10v25-37

[Illustration: Kaizen - continuous improvement, small teams, no blame, looking forward]

Fruitful

- God has chosen us to be fruitful. (John 15v2,8,16)
- Where character blossoms, disciples develop. (John 13v34-35,17v20-23)
- The abundance of your fruit depends on your connection with God. (John 15v4-6)
- [Illustration – Dial up ... fibre]
- Your connection is love showing itself in obedience (John 15v9-13)

Disciples

- A disciple closely emulates their master like an apprentice. (Matthew 10v25)
- Jesus called the first disciples to follow him to become fishers of men. (Matthew 4v19)
- Time [Illustration – cherry 1 & 2, plum, black currants]
- Jesus’ fruitfulness was the result of
 - His love for Father God (John 14v31)
 - His love for people (John 13v34)

Love

- The nature of love is defined by the object of love (John 14v23, 15v13)
- Jesus gives us the greatest commandments as the way to life – to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves (Luke 10v25-28)

Practical “How to”

Let’s look at who God is, and so what it means to love him as he is.

Let’s look at who we each are, and so what it means to love each other.

We will proceed with this monthly to allow time to action it in our lives.

Be part of a Small Team to:

- discuss and apply – Wise builders do as well as listen (Matthew 7v24-27)
- encourage each other – Team effort (Colossians 3v16)

Be part of Pair / Triplet

- To strengthen one another (Ecclesiastes 4v12)
- Some matters may need dealing with as a household

B/ Personal Reflection - Materials available

- Read through meditatively the “*Spiritual Branch Health Check*”
- Read and apply the “*Making Disciples: 3-Habits for Everyday Evangelism*” Guide (includes “*list-of-5*”).
- Key Bible verses to memorise and meditate on:
 - Matthew 22v37-40; John 15v5; John 15v10-13; Matthew 4v19-20; Galatians 5v22-23
- Songs to meditate on:
 - I’ve counted up the cost (Rend Collective)
 - I want to follow Jesus Christ
 - Jesus lover of my soul
 - To be in your presence
- Suggested books to read meditatively:
 - “*Knowing God*” by JI Packer
 - “*Desiring God*” by John Piper
- Reflect on some of the “*Small Team*” and “*Pair/Triplet*” material before meeting.

C/ Small Team (1 hour 15mins + worship)

- Worship
- Summary of “Bible Material” (5 mins)
- Talk Questions (15 mins)
 - What was the fruit of Jesus’ life? To what extent was his fruit visible or invisible during his time on earth?
 - What fruit is God anticipating for my life? What is the secret of being fruitful?
 - What does the English word “love” mean? Would you agree that the meaning of love is defined by the object being loved?
 - We sometimes hear obedience contrasted with love. How are obedience and love connected in John 13 – 15? (See particularly: 13v1-5, 12-17, 34-38; 14v6-12, 15-27, 31; 15v1-17)
- Summary of “Practical” (5 mins)
- Practical Questions (40 mins)
 - To what extent is it possible for us as disciples to emulate Christ as his apprentices (disciples)?
 - Jesus told the first disciples he would “make them fishers of men” (Matthew 4v19). How does Jesus do this?
 - Share with each other what ways of connection with God work best for you. (See the “*Spiritual Branch Health Check*”) What ways could you develop further? Can we help one another in our connection with God?
 - Think over your Christian life. What fruit is your life currently yielding? In what areas do you think God may be calling you to grow further in him?
 - Each write a list of not-yet-believers with whom you come into contact regularly. Mark the ones (say 5) to make a “*list-of-5*” that you are ready to pray for each day and seek God-opportunities to witness.
 - Read the following passages and identify what these indicate about how we witness and make disciples. Matthew 28v17-20; Acts 1v8; Ephesians 5v15-16; Colossians 4v3-6; 1 Thessalonians 4v11-12.
 - Check who is able to pair/triplet up to make sure everyone who wants to is covered.
- Pray together (10 mins)
 - Let each say a prayer for someone else. Some may wish to write something to read.
 - Pray for your “*list-of-5*”

D/ Pair/Triplet (40 mins)

- The goal is not to be right but to help one another as brothers/sisters in Christ (Ecclesiastes 4v12).
- Share and Discuss together (15 mins)
 - How fruitful do you feel?
 - (Assuming you already know each other ...) encourage each other with fruit you see in each other.
 - What you have ‘received from God’ this last week? If nothing, then pray for one another to receive this next week.
 - What do you think it means to obey God in your context?
 - What opportunities do you have to witness in your context?
- Read a passage from the Bible together (this could be one that one of you has read during the week or 1 Corinthians 5v14-21). (15 mins)
 - What does this passage say about God?
 - What does this passage say about us as humans?
 - What does it say about the relationship between us and God?
 - What is God wanting to say to me specifically from this passage?
- Pray together (10 mins)
 - Give thanks and pray for one another based on the Bible passage.
 - Give thanks for and pray for each other based on your discussion.
 - Thank God for his desire for relationship and pray that God will help you grow in your relationship with him.
 - Pray for your “*list-of-5*”

Note: You may prefer to use the material in “*Making Disciples: 3-Habits for Everyday Evangelism*” Guide instead or additionally to the above.