



## Life Group Lesson

### Lesson #2

*“The creation of the tabernacle and the care and the preciseness by which I taught the people of God to create a tabernacle is meant to be a picture for how you create your heart for me.”* (Holy Spirit to Pastor John) Preparing our hearts to meet with God is our way of telling Jesus we value Him and we want to meet with Him. This preparation creates a space in our spirit and in our hearts for Him to dwell in us, the same way He dwelt in the Temple in OT.

One way to prepare our hearts for our Sunday corporate worship is to encounter Jesus in our daily life. There are 3 important things in the temple - lampstand, showbread and incense, which provides a guide on how to come close to Jesus everyday.

Lampstand - Word of God that helps you see (Psalm 119:5)

Showbread - fellowship with Jesus (Rev. 3:20)

Incense - prayers of the saints (Rev. 8:3)

### Looking Back

#### FAMILY TIME (20 min)

- Vision Statement: Have a group member explain the vision of your lifegroup. Invite another group member to share your vision piece next time.
- Intro Question: What is your favorite verse or passage in the Bible and Why?
- Prayer Requests, Praise Reports and Updates from previous week(s).



## Look Up

### WORSHIP (30 min)

- During this season, we want to spend more time engaging in God's presence. If you have somebody who can lead, we encourage you to invite them in to lead. If you'd like to use YouTube, here are a few longer sets that have more space for spontaneous worship that will give you space to engage with God's heart.
  - [Breathe & What a Friend we have in Jesus](#) (~14 min) -
  - [All Hail King Jesus](#) (Include one section where people were encouraged to dance, ~14mins)
  - [You hold it together](#) (~11 min)

\*\*Encourage your group members to engage God's heart for one another during worship and share any affirmations or words of encouragement they receive with each other as Holy Spirit leads. One strategic way to do this on Zoom is through the private message function while worship is ongoing.

## Bible Study: Passage - John 15:1-8 (NIV)

- Let's take time and allow the Word of God (lampstand) to lead us to fellowship with Jesus (showbread) and into prayer (incense). The text here is from the NIV version. Feel free to have your members look at different versions of the text to grasp the richness of this passage.

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and



it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

## Questions:

- *What's something that stands out to you?*
- *What do we learn about God/God's heart?*
- *What do we learn about people?*
- *Ask the Lord,*
  - *In what ways are You inviting me to remain in You so I will bear fruit? Are there things You want to prune in my life/heart, so I will be even more fruitful? Are there things You actually want (me) to cut out of my life because it's bearing no fruit?*

Give your members some time to actually be quiet and listen to Jesus' heart for them from this passage and the above questions. Encourage people to listen from the heart (to God's desire), not just from the head (which tends to end up with many "should" or "supposed to" type thoughts and answers). After that, have a time to share what Jesus' personal invitation is for each person and then go into smaller groups to spend time praying for one another.

## Looking Forward

- 1) From what Jesus spoke to each person above through John 15, have members check in with each other daily this week how they are responding to Jesus' invitation and walking in new way of remaining in Jesus. Instead of checking in as a large group, you can have people who were in small group together during the prayer time above to follow up with each other and continue to pray for each other daily this week.
- 2) Encourage members to check out various resources we are posting each week for this series at <https://epicentre.org/resources>. Ask them to try out some of them, and come back and share how God met them as they create more space to encounter Him.



## Kids Lesson

Earlier this year we talked about Soil Care with how God helps us with the different seeds of our hearts. This week, let's read a passage about a vine and branches and how we bear fruit!

### Bible Study: Passage - John 15:1-8 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

#### Questions:

- *Who is the vine? Who is the gardener?*
- *Who are the branches?*
- *What does the gardener do to the branches?*
- *What does God tell us about us as the branches?*
- *Ask the Lord,*
  - *How can I bear fruit today?*
  - *Are there things that I need to notice in my life that are keeping me from bearing fruit?*
  - *How can I remain in you?*