



Soul Care
PERSONAL RETREAT

SOUL CARE

The Vine - John 15

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

9:00 - 9:30 *Prep Time*

9:30 - 10:30 *Diving Deeper*

10:30 - 11:30 *Making it Practical:*

11:30 - 12:00 *Closing consideration / prayer time*

12:00 - 1:00p *SOUL CARE DEBRIEF -*

Share with someone what God has spoken to you today.

5 “P”s of SCRIPTURE MEDITATION . . .

PREPARE ... a passage from Scripture to spend time with

PLACE ... where I will be uninhibited in my response to God’s presence

POSTURE ... relaxed, peaceful

PRESENCE ... be aware of God in the space

PASSAGE ... turn to it and read it slowly ... wait on God to speak

9:00 - 9:30 Prep Time

Find a quiet place that will allow you to focus on God. Here’s a couple of leading thoughts to start you off:

- 1 *Are there any circumstances preventing you from being completely present with Jesus this morning? Take a minute to offer those to God.*
- 2 *Read thru **John 15:1-9** two or three times. Begin by being thankful that God is The Vine for you. What thoughts does that bring to mind?*

9:30 - 10:30 Diving Deeper

Read **John 15:1-9** again.

The gardener is fully capable of taking any branch, no matter how wounded, and putting it back together again. This may not mean a quick fix. It may take awhile, but God has grace enough to forgive our failures, and strength enough to transform any crisis.

No matter what we have faced in our lives - no matter what others have tried to do to us - God wants to be the last one to touch every area of our lives. He is a gardener you can completely trust.

How have you recently been deliberate and intentional about being close to Jesus?

Examine your schedule. What changes need to take place in order for you to at the disposal of the Master Gardener?

Below is a timeline of the day. What does a typical day look like for you? Write your schedule in the blanks. Then, go back through and re-structure it so there is time for God to speak to you and for you to abide with Him.

Where could you slip in 10 minutes of quiet? Thirty minutes of prayer? A few minutes to open the Word and let God speak to you? Take some time with this and really ponder a solution.

If you get done before the time allotted, be blessed with time to just spend with God now.

| | | | |
|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| 6 a.m. | _____ | 3 p.m. | _____ |
| 7 a.m. | _____ | 4 p.m. | _____ |
| 8 a.m. | _____ | 5 p.m. | _____ |
| 9 a.m. | _____ | 6 p.m. | _____ |
| 10 a.m. | _____ | 7 p.m. | _____ |
| 11 a.m. | _____ | 8 p.m. | _____ |
| 12 p.m. | _____ | 9 p.m. | _____ |
| 1 p.m. | _____ | 10 p.m. | _____ |
| 2 p.m. | _____ | 11 p.m. | _____ |

10:30 - 11:30 Making it Practical

Read **John 15:1-9** again.

Part of our confusion about fruitfulness stems from our bent to quantify everything — number of people we are leading to Jesus or discipling. The Old Testament uses fruitfulness almost exclusively to refer to having babies.

A few references refer to God's deeper of what it means for us to be fruitful in His Kingdom.

Read Psalm 72:3

Isaiah 32:17

Hosea 10:12

In the New Testament, the tables turn completely. Fruitfulness becomes the demonstration of God's transforming power in the character of His people.

Read Galatians 5:22, 23

The first 3 fruit — LOVE, JOY, PEACE — are often referred to as blessings God bestows on His children.

The second 3 — PATIENCE, GOODNESS, KINDNESS — define our relationship to other people.

The final 3 — FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL — mark the demeanor of someone being transformed by the power of God.

None of these are difficult concepts to understand. They are only difficult to live out daily.

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What would someone look like who exhibited all 9 of these fruit?

Take them below one-by-one. What is the evidence of each in your life?

Be encouraged as you write something that shows this fruit is part of who you are. Which fruit could have greater evidence in you?

| <i>FRUIT</i> | <i>EVIDENCE OF THE FRUIT IN YOUR LIFE</i> |
|----------------------------|--|
| <i>LOVE</i> | _____ |
| <i>JOY</i> | _____ |
| <i>PEACE</i> | _____ |
| <i>PATIENCE</i> | _____ |
| <i>KINDNESS</i> | _____ |
| <i>GOODNESS</i> | _____ |
| <i>FAITHFULNESS</i> | _____ |
| <i>GENTLENESS</i> | _____ |
| <i>SELF-CONTROL</i> | _____ |

****Pray through them one-by-one. Ask God to develop each one in you in greater measure.***

11:30 - 12:00 CLOSING CONSIDERATION / PRAYER TIME

Read **John 15:10-12**.

God wants your joy as much as anything.

When Solomon expressed his delight in the Lord, he exalted it above wine, evidently the standard by which other things desirable were measured.

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Read Song of Songs 1:4

Spend the time left ramping up your joy — giving thanks to God — spending time in His presence in celebration.

Close your time celebrating Communion on your own.

PRAYER: "Thank You Jesus that You are the Vine and I am a branch. Help me day by day to abide in You and to be fruitful in all I say and do. I know that without you I can do nothing but I also know that as I rest in You I can model the sort of fruit that is pleasing to the Father. I want to abide in You and rest in You and remain in You."