



# 6

## Joining God's Work

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WHEN HAVE YOU FACED A TASK YOU FELT LIKE YOU COULDN'T COMPLETE?

### The POINT >

Believers are to join God's work in both the church and the world.

#### > JOHN 15:1-8

<sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

<sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are

burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you.

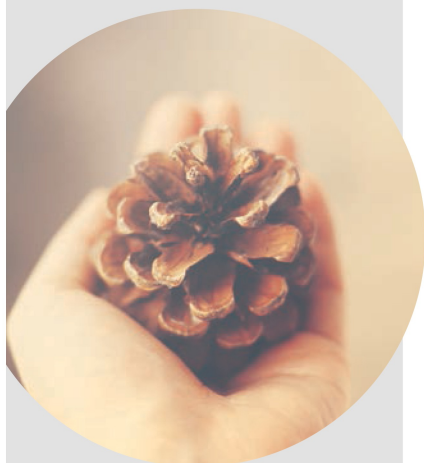
<sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## FACT:

Martin Luther King, Jr. is known for being a charismatic public speaker, and his “I have a dream” speech is among the greatest and most familiar speeches of all time. However, Dr. King wasn’t always a great speaker. He got a C for public speaking while in seminary.<sup>2</sup>



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // COMMUNITY & WORLD

God continues to work in the world, and as we join Him in His work, He uses people to accomplish His eternal purposes.

Many in the church see two categories of people—ministers, and everybody else. The ministers are those who sit around the church building all week and do a whole lot of nothing, except pray and study the Bible. (Not true! Your pastors work about as hard as anybody on the planet.) They’re the ones who teach the Bible studies, visit people in the hospital, and officiate weddings and funerals. Of course, ministers are also responsible for preaching every Sunday. After all, public speaking is terrifying to over three-quarters of the population.<sup>1</sup>

While we may be tempted to believe that ministers’ responsibilities are vastly different from the rest of the church, the truth is that there’s a lot more in common than many may think. Visiting the sick isn’t just the responsibility of our pastors—many of us have the gift of mercy and should use that gifting to comfort the suffering. Of course, pastors are responsible for teaching the Bible, but there are a lot of people who are gifted to teach. And when it comes to sharing our faith, proclaiming the gospel to the world, that’s something we’re all called to do.

You may never be formally ordained for a ministry position, but every follower of Christ is called to minister to others. We do not need to fear the work. God has called us to this purpose, and we are not alone.

## JOHN 15:1-3

**1** What kinds of fruit does God expect us to produce?

**2** How might you benefit from God’s pruning?

## JOHN 15:4-5

**3** When do you struggle to remain in Christ?

**4** List a few practical things we do to stay connected to Jesus.

**5** What helps you to remember that you need God's help?

## JOHN 15:6-8

**6** What do these verses teach us about our relationship with God?

**7** What kinds of fruit do you produce?

**8** How can you grow in producing fruit that honors Christ?

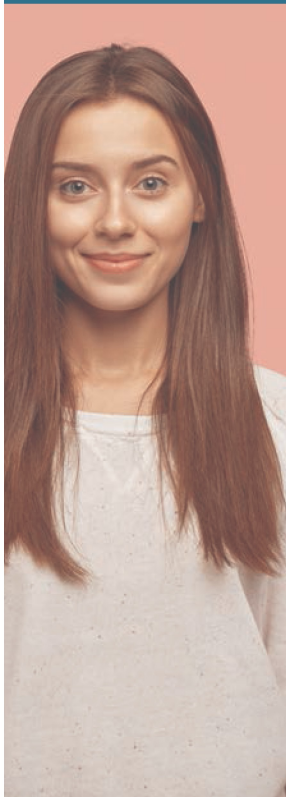


*Peter denied Jesus, but this failure didn't define him. Later, God would use him in powerful ways.  
#BSFLSpiritual Disciplines*





# LIVE IT OUT



GOD  
JESUS  
HOLY SPIRIT  
BIBLE  
SALVATION  
CREATION  
CHURCH  
PEOPLE  
FAMILY

**COMMUNITY  
& WORLD**

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // COMMUNITY & WORLD

*God continues to work in the world, and as we join Him in His work, He uses people to accomplish His eternal purposes.*

God chooses to use people in accomplishing His purposes in the world. We may not feel like we're fit to live out all the things to which God has called us—like boldly proclaiming the gospel to lost people—but this doesn't change God's calling on our lives. If we want to see lost people saved and God receive the glory He deserves, then we must devote ourselves to joining in Jesus' mission of proclaiming the truth to the world.

## > CHRIST

For us to be fruitful, we must be connected to the vine. When we try to live apart from remaining continually connected to Jesus, we will not only be unproductive, but we will die ourselves apart from Him.

**9** List three specific ways you connect with Jesus each day.



**10** What fruit are you producing because of your connection with the Vine?

**11** How specifically will you work to produce gospel fruit this week?

## > COMMUNITY

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**12** Make a list of responsibilities your ministers carry out in your church.

**13** In which of these areas might God be calling you to serve? Discuss this with a leader this week.



## > CULTURE

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Your pastors are certainly called to proclaim the gospel to the lost both in your community and around the world. However, think of the difference it would make if the whole church got involved.

**14** This week, make it a point to share the gospel with lost friends. How many times will you commit to sharing about Jesus?

**15** Have a conversation with a student leader or pastor about ways you can get involved with the church's efforts to proclaim the gospel to the lost.