

BELLEVUE CHRISTIAN

WITH PURPOSE

Week Five: May 11-15

The devotional on the pages that follow can be used by individuals, families, and small group Bible studies. If you are doing this devotional alone, we encourage you to invite friends and family to join you—beautiful things happen when we invite others to grow with us in our relationships with Jesus!

This devotional has three sections:

1) Reading:

- Key text: Read this text at least two times. Bonus points if you read it out loud! Look for the main idea and look for a phrase that jumps out at you.
- Digging deeper: Use these verses to go deeper into themes from the key text. Use a highlighter to mark ideas that stand out or themes that repeat.

2) Reflection: Use these reflection questions to connect your reading directly to your life. Reflect on how God is speaking to you and equipping you through His Word!

3) Prayer: This guided prayer is broken up into four sections, using the acronym ACTS:

- Adoration—Tell God something that you love about Him.
- Confession—Confess your feelings, worries, troubles, and sin to God.
- Thanksgiving—Tell God what you are thankful for.
- Supplication—Talk to God about what you are needing or wanting.

Throughout your prayers, feel free to return to the specific words and phrases you read in previous sections. One of the many ways we can use God's Word is by turning into prayer!

Key Text: John 15

As you read, look for how God's care and love for you are revealed through the call to *remain*:

John 15 The Vine and the Branches

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 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. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 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.

5 "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. 6 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. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

Reflection:

What things in your life help you *remain* in Jesus and in his love? What things (habits, influences, ideas) make it harder to *remain* in Jesus and in his love?

Jesus says that the Father prunes every branch that bears fruit so that it may bear even *more* fruit. Sometimes we focus a lot on how God is pruning us—what he is cutting out of our lives. Read the verses below and imagine the good fruit God might be growing in you. Is there one specific idea that stands out? What fruit do you want Jesus to grow in you?

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

What does it mean that Jesus is the vine and you are a branch? What does that mean for your relationship with him? What does that mean for how you live?

Prayer:

Adoration: Praise God by telling Him who He is—the God who provides everything you need and prunes and provides for your continued growth. Praise God for the call to remain in Jesus and in his love.

Confession: Confess how hard and scary it is to let God prune you. Ask him for forgiveness for ways you have resisted him. Confess how hard it is to remain in Jesus. Ask for forgiveness for when you seek to find what you need in other places.

Thanksgiving: Thank Jesus for his love and for his promise to take care of you, like a farmer takes care of his vineyard. Thank God that he has provided for you through Jesus and that he wants to remain in you and with you.

Supplication: Ask God to show you practical ways to remain in his love and to give you strength and obedience to remain in his love. Who in your life might need the strength and courage to remain in Jesus' love? Pray for them too! Them too!