

Kingdom Come: Distraction

A study for Community Groups to use the week of January 25th

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Series Guide** to complete foundational questions in the book for week 5 using the scripture below.

Week Four: John 15:4-5

Overview

When Jesus talked about the kingdom of God, he described it as a place where God's goodness and grace are reigning in one's heart. In Matthew 13, he referenced four obstacles to that reality, one of which is distraction. In our busy and full lives distraction is a common challenge, yet Jesus appears on the scene as busy as anyone else, yet living a distraction free life. How? In this series we will explore His life and teaching to get a clearer picture to the type of life He invites each of us to experience.

Passage: John 15:4-5 *"The branches then should make a deliberate effort to maintain a close personal relationship to the true vine. We should do this not because failure to do so will result in our losing the life of God that we possess. Jesus promised that He would never withdraw that from us. We should do it because the extent of our fruitfulness as believers is in direct proportion to our intimacy with Jesus. Divine life depends on connection with the true vine by exercising saving faith in Him, but fruitfulness depends on abiding in the vine by exercising loving obedience toward Him."*
– Constable's Notes

Questions

*In the Series Guide you will find basic questions we want all to use as they begin to look at the passage. Questions such as; *Who have you had the opportunity to BLESS this week? What does this passage reveal about God? About people? About the life He has planned for us?* These additional questions relate to the passage specifically for your benefit.

- Take a few moments to review questions from the guide. If you have not accessed it, there is a free digital copy [here](#).
- In John 15:4-5, Jesus uses the image of a branch that stays connected in order to grow. When you look at your everyday life, what patterns or habits seem to shape who you are becoming over time? Which of those patterns feel life-giving, and which feel draining?
- Jesus is clear that “apart from me you can do nothing.” Where do you feel the pressure to perform, prove yourself, or keep everything together on your own? What might it look like to practice dependence instead this week?
- Looking at your daily & weekly routines, what is one habit you could start, change, or remove to help increase your focus on loving God with all your heart this week?