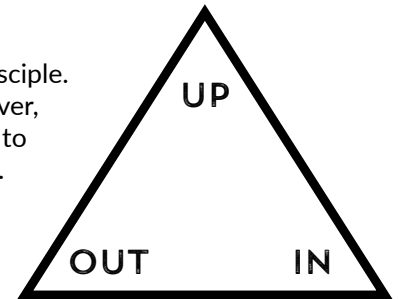


SERMON SERIES DISCIPLING GUIDE

Series: As It Is In Heaven • Sermon: Connecting to the King • Date: Oct. 6/7, 2018 • Speaker: Matt Boda

INTRODUCTION

Today we are in **John 15**, a portion of scripture dedicated to the “UP” piece of being a disciple. All about how we connect to the Father in Kingdom life. The profound part of this however, is that our “IN” and “OUT” life as disciples are completely dependent on this connection to the Father. It’s the source, the well, the spring, the life and the empowerment for all else.



READ TOGETHER

Take a few minutes to slowly read through **John 15** together.

- *What do you see? What jumps out to you?*

Jesus, in John 15, paints four pictures about this connection to the Father:

- 1. The Gardener's Role – Pruning.** Read Hebrews 12:5-10. Pruning means to “cut off or cleanse”. The Father will prune us, or parts of our life, when it does not bear fruit, so it can bear fruit in the future.
Do you feel like this has happened in your life? When and why? Do you feel like that is happening now? Why do you think that is?
- 2. Our Role – Connecting.** All about “remaining” in Him. The branch **MUST** stay connected to the vine, or fruit will never grow. In fact the branch will wither and die. Matt described the necessity of being aware of our inner and outer world. The role of examining our life to find out if we are mostly leaning away from God, or towards him.
What do you believe God may be inviting you to consider when it comes to “remaining in Him”?
- 3. The Vine's Role – Fruit-bearing.** Jesus makes it clear that fruit-bearing is His role. His role, not ours.
Do you believe Him when he says this? What do you think this looks like in daily experience?
- 4. Then there is the Fruit.** *What are you praying God does in and around you? Who are you praying for these days? Consider the above roles; what then is our/your role in these prayers and for these people?*

AS A GROUP

Together, consider some ways that you could connect with the Father. *What have been ways in your past that have been meaningful and helpful? What are ways you can do this together? Individually?*

Take some time to silently pray and listen for God’s leading. Ask Him, “Lord, how are you inviting me to connect with you this week?” *What did He say? What do you think that looks like? How are you going to make that happen this week?*

This week, connect with each other in some way to let everyone know how this went and what God said to you.