



Small Group Discussion Guide

Week Two

Getting Started

Ask group members to share one truth God revealed to them about living successfully this week.

Review

1. Review your memory verse from last week, *John 10:10b "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."*
2. Pair off and go over this week's verse, *John 15:5, "I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*
3. Review the acrostic L-I-F-E. What do each of the letters of L-I-F-E stand for?

Discuss

1. In his message Sunday, the pastor said there are things that will hinder you from living successfully.
 - List some of these things.
 - What are some of the things that hinder YOU?
2. The pastor said, "Everyone has that one big thing that hinders them. You don't want God to take on this big thing because you want to protect Him from failure." What do you think he meant by that? Is that true with you?
3. Living successfully starts with a relationship with Jesus Christ and involves proper management of these five things (Choose answers from the list below)...
 - Your _____
 - Your _____
 - Your _____
 - Your _____
 - Your _____

Relationships, Truth, Hobbies, Priorities, Resources, Values, College Football Team, Time, Possessions

- Which of these do you think is easiest to manage? Why?
 - Which of these is hardest to manage? Why?
4. The pastor said, "If you want to know what is important to someone, look at their calendar and their checkbook."



- What do you think he meant by that?
 - What does your calendar and checkbook say about you?
5. In John 15:1-5, what word that is used five times reveals to us the secret to living successfully? How does this secret help us live successfully?
6. In John 15:1-5,
- Who is the vine?
 - Who is the gardener?
 - Who are the branches?
 - Whose life do we get when we are connected to the vine?
 - What does that life look like? Galatians 5:22-23
 - What do we learn about living successfully from these verses?
7. The pastor said there were two applications from this message that we need to take with us. **First**, make sure you are _____ to Christ.
Second, you must _____ fruit.

Apply

What do you need to do in order to start living successfully?

1. I need to better manage this area of my life (see #3)

Write below how you plan to work on this.

2. How connected to the Vine, the Lord Jesus, are you on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being very disconnected and 10 being completely connected? How do I plan to move up on the scale?
3. What do you think God, our Gardener or Vinedresser, is working to prune out of your life?
4. Are you connected to Christ? That is, do you know for sure that you have repented of sin and committed your life to Jesus by accepting Him as your Savior? When did you give your life to Christ? Recall right now how it happened.
5. Are you producing fruit? Do you see the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) in you? This is evidence that you are connected to the Lord Jesus.



Pair up with someone and take a moment to share what you need to live successfully. Then, pray for each other.