

# *Living the Word*

## A Bible Study for Missionary Discipleship

### Session 4

### John 15: 1-17

*“Remain in Me.”*



Diocese of  
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Living the Word  
Missionary Discipleship Bible Study  
Session 4

OPENING PRAYER

God of life and love, pour forth Your Spirit to inspire me with Your words of compassion, forgiveness and love. Stir in me a desire to renew my faith and deepen my relationship with Jesus, Your son. Open my heart to hear and live your Gospel message. Strengthen me to be a Missionary Disciple, a sharer of the Good News in words and witness proclaiming your all-inclusive love, mercy, and grace in all that I do. Amen

OPENING PSALM

(create two groups and take turns reading together)

**Psalm 84:**

**The Joy of Worship in the Temple**

**Group 1** 1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! 2 My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

**Group 2** 3 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. 4 Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Selah

**Group 1** 5 Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. 6 As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. 7 They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

**Group 2** 8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah 9 Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

**Group 1** 10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

## OPENING REFLECTION VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mGxEAtVGcU>

## THIS WEEKS BIBLE PASSAGE

“Remain in Me”

Jesus asks us to lay down our lives for one another

John 15:1-17

### **The Vine and the Branches**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes<sup>[a]</sup> to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed<sup>[b]</sup> by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become<sup>[c]</sup> my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants<sup>[d]</sup> any longer, because the servant<sup>[e]</sup> does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

## REFLECTION

Over the years I have found that to evangelize you don't just go out and tell the world about Jesus Christ, rather you show them who He is and how He remains in you. You show them what Love looks like, you don't just tell them what it is. (Actions Speak Louder than Words)

What does Jesus mean when He says, "remain in me as I have remained in you"? He is living in you, the vine that holds you together. A branch cannot live without its vine. How do we remain in Jesus Christ? By keeping His command. He tells us clearly that His command is to Love one another as He loves us. Greater Love has no one than this, that one would lay down their life for one's friend.

We are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, supporting, encouraging and praying for each other. We are the Church. Jesus is the Vine, we are the branches. We can't be missionary disciples alone. We will wither and die. We need each other and we need Jesus if we want to survive. The Church needs her children to Love one another.

It isn't always an easy decision to make, but Jesus asks us to sacrifice for one another, for Him, so that we may remain in Him. Being a missionary disciple is sacrificing your wants, your desires, your life for Jesus. For His Will, His Wants and His Desires for you. A young priest shared in a homily not too long ago that we shouldn't fight the agony we feel when faced with a tough decision. It is our will conforming to the will of Our Father's.

## PAUSE FOR SILENT PRAYER

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How do you want me to serve you today?
2. How can I lay down my life for my brother, for my sister and save their souls?

## CALL TO ACTION

Approach the parish secretary to set up a visit with your priest and ask how your set of skills could be better utilized in the parish. Is there a ministry you feel called to engage in that currently is not being met by the parish or in your community?

CLOSING PRAYER

**Missionary Discipleship Prayer**

Leader: *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

*But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed?*

*And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard?*

*And how can they hear without someone to preach?*

*And how can people preach unless they are sent? –Romans 10: 13-15*

All: Heavenly Father,

Pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire us with these words from Holy Scripture, so that we might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in our daily lives through our words and actions.

In moments of hesitation, remind us:

- If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?
  - If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?
  - If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim?
- Give us the grace that we might hear the call of the New Evangelization

and become a Missionary Disciple, deepening our faith,  
growing in confidence to proclaim the Gospel  
and boldly witnessing to the saving grace of your Son,  
Jesus Christ.

O Mary, our Immaculate Mother, pray for us.

Inspire us to imitate your example  
as the first disciple of your son, Jesus,  
who is Lord for ever and ever.

Amen.

Leader:*Mary, Star of the New Evangelization*, All: pray for us.

*St. Joseph*, All: pray for us.

*St. Thérèse of Lisieux*, All: pray for us.

*St. John Paul II*, All: pray for us.