

Message-based Study

Video is available online at: visitccc.com

Connection

How would you describe your own “green thumb” in the garden?

Content

When you accept Christ, Jesus has more in store for you, a rich and satisfying life as you grow in faith. But growing takes work. A good gardener knows that what happens beneath the surface determines what plants and fruits come out of the ground. You need healthy roots for your faith to flourish.

In what ways do you want to flourish?

Allegiance

In John 15:4, Jesus says he is the vine, his Father is the gardener, and we are the branches. Pledging allegiance to Jesus means staying attached to him, staying rooted in him, believing his promises so that our lives bear fruit for him. Allegiance is faithfulness.

1. What’s a good reason for you to stay attached to Jesus, the vine?

Colossians 1:15-18 paints a picture of this awesome Jesus who wants our allegiance. He is the creator of the universe!

2. What can you say or do to “pledge allegiance to Jesus” today?

Alignment

Read John 10:11-16, from our car tires to our printers, we are aligning things all the time. Growing faith means getting into alignment with Jesus, getting on his wavelength. Alignment means knowing Jesus’ voice, knowing his thoughts, his deeds and his instructions. And the way to learn that “sound of his voice” is by reading and studying his Word, the Bible.

3. Tell about a time you felt God speaking to you. How could you be sure it was God’s voice?

God's Word is supernatural and "is indeed at work in you who believe," according to I Thessalonians 2:13. The Bible nurtures, it feeds, it builds our faith.

4. If someone asked you how to start reading the Bible, what would you like to tell them?

Alongside

Just being with somebody could be the best thing you ever do for that person. God is always faithful, because he doesn't know how to not be faithful. In John 14:26-29, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will be alongside us as our Advocate and our Comforter. This is true even in our deepest distress.

5. Could you describe a distressing time in your life when just having someone with you was comforting?

Read 1 Peter 1:6-8, the distress of life and the testing of our faith has a purpose. According to James 1:2-4, testing builds endurance to make us "mature and complete, not lacking anything." Testing builds faith, like a hard workout builds muscle.

6. Is there "inexpressible and glorious joy" in your life?

Commitment

Healthy roots mean healthy fruits.

7. What can you do today to cultivate faith in Jesus?



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

This week, **Engage** with a person in your life who needs Jesus' love. Begin today with this tool of how to B.L.E.S.S them.

Would you like to give any updates to the group on someone you have shared about in the past?