

**Sticking with the Mission: “Learning to Connect”**  
**John 15:1-27**

We’ve begun this year by working through our mission statement. Our mission statement summarizes the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-39) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). This mission statement tells us “what we as a church are supposed to be doing.” This gives direction. It focuses our future. It provides a guideline for decision making. It inspires unity. This is our mission statement:

**Our church exists to glorify God** by intentionally making reproducing disciples who  
**love God,**  
**love one another, and**  
**live to reach to the world for Christ.**

Our mission statement begins with why we exist—to glorify God. This is our ultimate purpose.

**Glory of God**

- God’s Presence among his people
- Display of God’s majesty, character, and power
- Through nature, the pillar of fire/cloud, Jesus Christ, the Character of God’s people, The Deliverance of God’s people

**Glorify God**

- See the glory of God
- Bring Honor and Praise
- Display God’s character and actions
- Proclaim God’s character and actions to the world

Last week we saw from John 15:

1. **Keep Jesus in the center: Jesus is the true vine.** (John 15:1)
2. **Welcome God’s training program: The Father prunes the branches to bring more fruit.** (John 15:2)
3. (John 15:3)
4. (John 15:4-6)

## Day by Day in the Word

“Day by Day in the Word” is a tool we use to help us in the process of becoming more and more like Jesus and ultimately to bring glory to God. The biblical principle is: The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness.

### What does it mean?

1. Further study from last week: When Christ says that he is the “true vine,” what does that mean? Contrast this with Israel as the vine in the Old Testament. Try to identify the pattern found in Isaiah 5:1-7 in other passages (See Psalm 80:8-18; Jeremiah 2:21; Ezekiel 15:1-8; 19:10-15).
2. What does this cleansing mean? See John 13:1-17, especially 13:10-11. What does the footwashing in 13:6-8 symbolize? What is the difference between a bath which cleanses the whole body and a washing of the feet? What observations can you make from the following passages: Psalm 51:2, 7; Matthew 23:25; Hebrews 9:14; 1 John 1:9.
3. “Fruitfulness is the result of the Son’s life being reproduced in a disciple. The disciple’s part is to remain.” What does “remain” (dwell, abide, stay, endure, hold to, belong to, live in) mean? Make observations from John 5:38; 6:27, 56; 8:31, 35; 9:41; 12:46; 14:10, 17; 15:4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 16. What do you learn from these passages that will help you to remain?

### How does it apply?

1. Further application from last week: What other vines are there to which we can connect ourselves? See Revelation 14:18-20. Which type of vine are you particularly attracted to? What will it take to pull away from a “vine of the earth”? How would this help a young Christian?
2. Why is it important to know that we have been cleansed? How will this help us to live as Christians? Take time to explain to a friend or a young Christians the difference between the initial cleansing and the ongoing asking for forgiveness? What passages would you take them to?
3. Read through John 15:1-17 and identify the actions/disciplines that will help you to stay connected to the Vine and receive more fruit. There are a number of them. Identify one of them to work on this week and develop a plan to put this discipline into action. Share your plan with a friend and be sure to celebrate God’s work in your life at the end of the week.
4. With our church’s “mission statement” in hand, read through John 15 and identify where each part of the mission statement is found in this passage. Discuss with a friend what you can do individually and what we can do as a church family to continue doing what we are supposed to be doing as a church.
5. Pray for one another using John 15 as a guide.