



SERIES TITLE
STUDY GUIDE
WEEK 4



MAIN SCRIPTURE:
John 15:4-5

MAIN POINT:
Staying connected with your Creator empowers you to keeping living in His identity and purpose for you.

JESUS CONNECTION:
Believing in Jesus starts a life-long relationship with Him.

@HopeHSM

1. READ *The Bible* Yessss! We are glad you are here because taking time on your own to study God’s word is an amazing way to grow in your relationship with Him. Life with Jesus is the best life! Take a moment to pray and ask God to lead you as you study this Scripture; then read the Scripture (*from your Bible or it’s on the back*).

2. OBSERVE
The Straight Facts

Who: _____

What: _____

Where: _____

Why: _____

How: _____

What is Repetitive?

Highlight it

What is Contrast?

Underline it

3. INTERPRET
What Does the Text Mean?

Research answers using trusted sources like a Study Bible, BibleProject.com, BlueLetterBible.org, and/or Bible.org

What is the historical and/or cultural context of this Scripture?

What else do I know about the author, audience, or context of this passage?
Jesus is talking to His disciples.

What do key words mean in their original language?

What other Scripture might help me interpret this text?

What is this text’s clearest meaning?

4. APPLY
Getting Personal

How do you relate to any of the characters, events, or words in this Scripture?

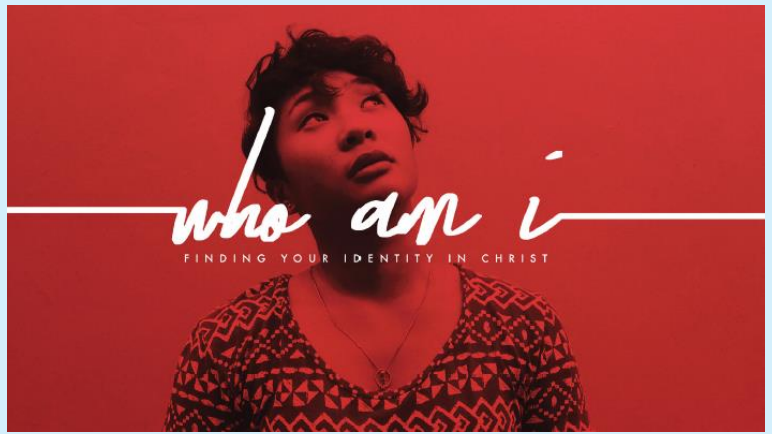
What truth(s) from this Scripture can you apply to your life?
What are things that can “cut you off” from connecting well to God?

What is God saying to you through this Scripture?

What are things you can do to “remain connected” well to God?



SERIES TITLE
DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK 4



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LEADER CORNER

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to be inspired to connect with God regularly.

THINK ABOUT THIS

We all know we *should* spend time with God – but the goal of this small group is for students to walk away *inspired* to connect with God regularly. We can't motivate others to be inspired if we aren't inspired. You may be in a very passionate place in your walk with Jesus, maybe things feel distant or routine. Take some time to stop, reflect, and pray for God to fuel your passion for Him. Ask the Lord to help you feel your need for Him daily. If our phones didn't die, we wouldn't feel the need to put them on charges. Well, if we don't connect with God daily by His grace we won't die, but we do start to drift in our intimacy with Him. It can be so subtle we don't notice for a while.

Wherever you are, I encourage you to pray for God to increase your longing for Him and for those in your group to feel a longing to grow closer to Jesus.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

GET THEM TALKING

What drains you physically? Mentally? Spiritually?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you usually act, think, and/or treat other people when you feel drained?

READ JOHN 15:4-5 and answer the following questions:

2. In your own words, what is this passage saying?
3. What do you think Jesus meant by "bearing fruit?"
4. Share about someone you know who is connected with God and "bearing fruit." How can you tell?
5. How is connecting with our Creator the solution to feeling drained?
6. How can connecting with our Creator regularly help us become who He created us to be?
7. When you realize you're drained, how can you reconnect with God?

NEXT STEP

What is one thing you can do this week to stay connected with God? Have your students brainstorm and share their goals together.

Is there a step you can all take together? Maybe even pick a Bible App Reading Plan to do together this week?

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:17-22 NIV

¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His house-hold, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit."

BONUS LEADER RESOURCE

Getting To Know Each Other Tip: Highs and Lows

One easy, yet sometimes powerful way for your group to get to know each other is to ask everyone (students and leaders) to share their weekly Highs and Lows. If students don't want to share one or either, let them know they can simply say pass.

- Highs = Best part of the week
- Lows = Worst part of the week

Letting students know you'll be praying for their lows and following up with things they share ("How'd the test/game/etc go?") shows you care and builds a healthy culture of belonging and trust in your group. This is something you can do with your group every week!