

February Theme and Meditation: *RE-*

Focus Passage - John 15:1-17

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. **3** You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. **4** Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.”

5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. **6** Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. **7** But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! **8** When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.”

9 “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. **10** When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. **11** I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! **12** This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. **13** There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. **16** You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. **17** This is my command: Love each other.”

February Prayer Prompts

Pause 1: **Love**

Jesus, I pause to remain in your love. Will you allow me to hear, see, feel, experience your love for me today? I hear your command to Love each other. As I remain here in

your love, I ask that you would fill my heart with this same love for the others that I will interact with today.

Pause 2: **Readiness**

Jesus, I invite you to prune away anything that would hinder the growth of new life, new fruit, new harvest. Make us, your church, ready for the new harvest.

Pause 3: **Humility**

Jesus, I hear you reminding us that apart from you I can do nothing. Jesus, today I admit that apart from you, I cannot produce the fruit of Your Kingdom. Jesus, I ask that you bless your church with this kind of humility so that we can bear good Kingdom fruit.

February Spiritual Practice - Back to the Basics of Prayer

Found in Matthew 6:9–13, Jesus gave us a framework for prayer that guides us beyond our habitual prayers into a surrendered, listening and holistic way of conversing with the Father. It allows for talking and listening back and forth as we treat each section of the prayer as a piece of the conversation.

1. *The Father's Character* (6:9): Jesus shows us that we can interact with God in an intimate manner. He is our Father, our “Abba” Daddy. And, there is an element of respect as well. He is hallowed, holy, honored. He is both our Father and our King. As you listen to Him, you get to ask Him to remind you of His character.

2. *The Father's Kingdom* (6:10): He is in charge. When we surrender to God as Savior of our lives, we recognize that He is Lord and that we want His Kingdom purposes for the things that we are praying about. As you listen to Him, you get to ask Him what His purpose is in the situations you are praying about.

3. *The Father's Provision* (6:11): Daily we can admit our needs to God and ask for His provision. He knows what we need better than we do. He knows what we need for this very moment and He knows what the future looks like. As you listen to Him, you get to ask Him how He wants to provide for you.

4. *The Father's Forgiveness (6:12)*: Unconfessed sin and un-forgiveness toward others are the two things that stand in the way of a thriving and abiding relationship with the Father. God loves to shower His grace on us and He loves to show us how to forgive those who have hurt us. He wants us to walk in the light with Him and with others. As you listen to Him, you get to ask Him to bring to light anything that needs to be confessed, and to show your need to forgive others.

5. *The Father's Guidance (6:13)*: We bring our concerns and temptations to God and ask Him for wisdom as we make our decisions, as we interact with others and as we carry out His mission. As you listen to the Father as Jesus did, only do what the Father tells you.

6. *The Father's Protection (6:13)*: We have a spiritual enemy who doesn't like us. Any time we are posturing ourselves to listen to the Father and walk in His ways, the enemy gets upset. We walk in the authority that Jesus gave us, so we can remind Satan of this, and walk in the protection and power that God provides for us. As you listen, you get to ask for discernment for the ways of the enemy and walk in the protection and authority that has been provided for you.