

## **Reconnect Week 3: God Time – Differences Between Men and Women**

These scriptures are selected to help you gain a deeper understanding of who Jesus is. You can read them each day or listen to the daily audio that is sent to you. They are intentionally designed for you to engage in your time alone with God. You will find them complementary to the teachings on the weekend (gatherings) and to the LIFE Group materials.

Some tips:

Use a Bible that is easy to read. The ESV or The NLT are both good translations.

Use a prayer journal. After you read the passages jot down what “jumped out” at you while reading. Then take a few minutes to write a prayer response to what you have read.

There are only five days of reading provided so if you miss a day you have time to catch up. Do not get legalistic! If you miss a day or even a week...God still loves you!

Monday: Ephesians 5:21-28

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 11:11-12

Wednesday: Ephesians 5:21-28

Thursday: 1 Peter 3:1-6

Friday: 1 Peter 3:7-8

### **Diving Deeper**

Jesus on Relationships – The Differences Between Man and Women

*John 15:4 – Remain in me as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

Jesus said to “let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:16) What stands out in this verse is that Jesus expects us to be active not passive. Many believers fail to understand the significance of what it means to truly grow, develop, live and serve as a Christian in this world. Unfortunately, what they really fail to understand is that they cannot accomplish God’s will until they learn to lean on Jesus. Being active does not mean stepping out alone and seeking to accomplish what you think God wants you to do. We are to connect to Jesus so that He guides us, He leads us, He gives us strength, and He takes the wheel. We are to be active in our efforts to become mature in Christ so that we might better serve others. Jesus desires us to abide in him as he abides in us. We cannot bear fruit unless we are connected to Jesus. Jesus uses the Vine to show the importance of abiding in Him. Without Christ we can do nothing. It is not that we may do a little, or may do something; no, without Him we can do nothing. So, we must abide in Him. When we abide in Christ, our prayer life becomes effective; our Heavenly Father is glorified; our life is one of love and joy; we are granted rest and comfort through the Spirit of God; we will bear fruit, and our testimony will be determined and steadfast.

And when we abide in Christ, we develop a desire to complement others. We no longer have this burning desire to compete with others. Men by nature can be aggressive, overpowering, demanding, and just downright mean-spirited and when that is on full display, it is many times directed at women. But when Christ abides in the lives of men, that picture will look a whole lot differently. Love and joy will abound and that inner obnoxious, overbearing self is replaced with a caring and tender spirit that puts the interests of women first and foremost.

1. For fruit to be mature and delicious, it must grow and be nurtured through the root ,,,,,,where are you getting your daily nutrition?
2. Discuss what it means to be respectful to others, especially women?
3. Do you feel men get an unfair break when it comes to how they have treated women?
4. This topic deserves an open discussion, so take it where it leads you?