

The Jesus Way

The Jesus Way: The Way of the Vine

March 7th & 8th

Speaker: Pastor Joshua Symonette

Scripture: John 15:1-10

Series Overview

Our church is coming together this Lent to practice the Jesus way. Each week, we'll be learning a new element of the way of Jesus together during weekend services, and we'll set aside time, both collectively and as individuals, to respond to and dive deeper into who Jesus is and who we are in Him. Sign up at ncc.re/TheWay to receive a devotional guide each Monday through Saturday with Scripture readings, devotional thoughts, and spiritual practices centered around the Jesus way.

Series Discussion Question

What struck you about this week's way of Jesus this week?
What does it look like to put that into practice?

Message Overview

Success and outcomes can constantly dominate our focus. All of our decisions seem to hinge on them. Jesus was also concerned about success and outcomes for His disciples, but in John 15, He uses the metaphor of the vine to explain to them that their success (or rather, the fulfillment of their purpose as His disciples) hinged upon one particular input: remaining in Him.

Message-Specific Discussion Questions

John 14-17 is often referred to as Jesus' "Farewell Discourse." Have there been any words – spoken or written – shared toward the end of someone's life that have been especially meaningful to you? If so, how?

Jesus knew that the success of his disciples was dependent upon the fulfillment of his instruction. Has this ever been true for you as the "instructor?" What was at stake?

Read John 15:1-10. How does the metaphor of the vine help us to understand what our relationship with Jesus is to look like?

In what ways have you experienced pruning? How has it shaped who you are today? How has it produced fruit in and through your life? See James 1:2-4.

If "fruit" is the output, "remaining" or "abiding" is the input. Do you tend to focus your energy more on the output or the input? What might it look like to shift your focus to the input?

How does David's story help you to understand the concept of remaining or abiding?

Read John 14:16-17. What is the Holy Spirit's role in remaining or abiding?

Based on where you are today, do you need to...

- Establish a connection with the Vine?
- Reconnect with the Vine?
- Cultivate a deeper connection with the Vine?
- Celebrate the strength of your connection with the Vine?

Practical Application

- Set aside time every day this week to connect with Jesus, the Vine, and the God the Father, the Gardener.
- Continue to engage with Scripture readings, devotional thoughts, and spiritual practices throughout the week by subscribing to The Jesus Way: A Daily Practice at ncc.re/TheWay.