



Stop It

ICEBREAKER: Rate the level of intensity you have about wanting to know God. Explain your answer.

OVERVIEW: How do you stop it? We've all tried to make changes in our life and met with failure after failure. So how do you change? In John 15:5, Jesus gives us the secret: As you keep a constant, close connection to Jesus, He will change you. In this discussion let's learn more about what we can do to cooperate with God in changing into the people He wants us to be.

1. Read John 15:5. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Jesus wants us to bear fruit, which is a metaphor for acting like Christ and being used by God to impact others. One Bible teacher writes that fruit "represents good works — a thought, attitude, or action of ours that God values because it glorifies Him." Study the following verses and jot down your observations and insights about spiritual fruit.
 - Psalm 1:3
 - John 15:8
 - Galatians 5:22-23
 - Ephesians 5:6-9
 - Philippians 1:9-11
 - Colossians 1:9-10
 - Titus 3:14

Home Group D-Guide

HOW TO STOP IT

4. In John 15:5, Jesus said that the key to changing is to keep a constant, close connection to Him and He will change you. This means learning how to do life with God 24/7; talking, listening, and responding to Jesus all day long. **Other than using the chime on your watch, what else can you do to remind yourself to stay connected all day long?**
5. What are some other things (habits, practices, disciplines) that you can do to help you maintain and nourish a close relationship with Jesus?
6. How did it encourage you to hear in the sermon that...
 - Jesus' focus in John 15:5 was not on changing yourself, but on abiding in Him?
 - Producing fruit doesn't happen overnight. It's usually a long, slow process.
7. What are some ways that God is trying to change you right now and what can you do to better cooperate with Him, especially in light of this sermon?
8. In his book "Secrets of the Vine," Bruce Wilkinson writes that there are three changes that God might lead you to make to be more fruitful. First, He might clean you off by leading you to repent of a particular sin. Second, He might prune you by leading you to simplify your life so you can focus better on His priorities. Third, He might lead you to abide by connecting more deeply with Him. Which of these do you think God is most wanting to do in your life right now, and what do you need to do, specifically, to work with Him in this process?

The Last Word: Jesus will radically change you and make you more and more fruitful over time. You just need to make it your top priority and central focus in life to keep a constant, close connection to Him. He'll do the rest!