



## Adult Life Groups & Care Groups

Shively Baptist Church | Louisville, KY



### Care Group Leaders Briefing For Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014

#### Planned Schedule:

- 0900-0910 – Ice Breaker (David Bradford)
- 0910-0915 – Focus –
- 0915-0930 – Teaching – The Vine – Part (John 15:1-17)
- 0930-1015 – Care Group Time (Care Group Leaders)
  - 0930-0950 – Apply the teaching
  - 0950-1005 – Strategic follow-up / Invitation planning
  - 1005-1015 – Prayer time

#### This week's teaching – The Vine and Branches – Part 3 (John 15:1-17)

##### “From Some Fruit to More Fruit”

**Teaching Objective:** This week focusses on the branch which has already been lifted / placed by the Gardener and is producing SOME FRUIT. What does the Gardener do to produce MORE FRUIT?

**Care Group Leader Encouragement:** Your objective is to ensure your Care Group members recognize:

1. Last week's discussion emphasized God's placing us for maximum fruitfulness.
2. This week's discussion emphasizes God's removal of good things which distract from best things.

#### **Review - Points from previous weeks:**

1. Four different levels of fruit bearing in this passage: No fruit, some fruit, more fruit & much fruit.
2. Fruit can be generalized as: Growth in character, conduct and conversions
3. All branches connected to the vine are chosen by God to bear fruit.
4. “Much fruit” is the level of fruit bearing which is “to my Father's glory.” See v8
5. God acts when we do not produce fruit – lifting / placing us for maximum potential fruitfulness.

**A Pattern to Follow:** My responses to some of these questions are in *(italics)*.

1. **Q: “What are some good things that God brings into our lives?”** *(Family, friends, homes, cars, money, church family, ministries to me, ministries I get to participate in, etc.)*
2. **Q: “Is it possible to have too much of a good thing or too many good things?”** *(Absolutely)*
3. **Q: “Describe life when you have too much.”** *(Life is spent getting, keeping, managing, cleaning, protecting, etc. Life becomes a means of getting, having and keeping.)*
4. **Q: “Is it possible to do too many good things?”** *(Absolutely)*



5. **Q: “Describe life when you do too much.”** (*Life is spent on a ragged race, running from event to event, being at one event and thinking about another. Physically draining and joy eliminating.*)
6. Having too much and/or doing too much describes a life out of balance and without a primary focus.  
**Q: “Does a life lived in this manner produce God honoring fruitfulness?”** (*No, not when this is characteristic of your life. It may describe periods of activity, and periods of fruitfulness, but not as an enduring character.*)
7. **What are some “Good things” you have too much of, or do too much of, that needs to be “pruned” in order to focus on what is best?**
8. **Q: “Is this type of pruning necessary?”** (*Yes*)
9. **Q: “How do we often react when God removes “Good things” from our lives?”** (*We sin: We get angry at others, we become bitter, we become angry at God, we lose our trust in Him, we get angry at the church and her leaders, we become depressed and some simply walk away.*)
10. **Q: “What is it called when we love something so much that we sin when we lose it or are prevented from having it?”** (*Sin – specifically idolatry. See James 4:1-3*)
11. **Explain:** The process of pruning good things and good activities out of our lives is the act of a loving God who wants what is best for us, and is continuing the process necessary for us to move from bearing some fruit to bearing more fruit.
12. **Ask: “So ... what have we covered today?”** Allow members to reflect back to you their “take aways.”

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**Strategic Invitation / Follow-up: Easter Sunday is April 20<sup>th</sup> – Next Week!** Easter and Christmas are two Sundays during the year when people who never attend any other weeks, tend to show up. Let’s intentionally use this cultural tendency to invite friends and family to join us.

Pray together that God would:

- Be working in lives of our potential guests, even before we ask them.
- Provide us with opportunities and boldness to invite them.

We are going to provide invitations and envelopes for your group to sign and address. The invites can be from one person or from everyone – you decide.

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**Pray for one another.** Consider asking members to share requests one at a time, and asking if another member would pray for that request immediately after it is made. This method ensures that priorities of your members are voiced and prayed over. Close in prayer when requests are exhausted or time runs out.