

Creekside Community Church
Lessons from the Vineyard: John 15
November 20th, 2016
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Disciple-making and The Gospel

"You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain...." (John 15:16)

1. **Saved to be a *people*** ("...I chose you...")

2. **Saved to live *set apart*** ("...and appointed you...")

3. **Saved for a *purpose*** ("...that you would go...")

4. **Saved to *reproduce*** ("...and bear fruit....")

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Who in your life has encouraged/enabled you to accomplish something you didn't think you could do? Share your story with the group.

Going Deeper

3. Jeff Vanderstelt says that salvation is a "*from/for*," and a "*to/through*" reality. What does this mean? How do we see this in the life of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)? In the story

of Israel (Exodus 19:1-6)? Why is it critical that we remember what we've been saved *for*? What happens if we neglect this aspect of the gospel message?

4. Jesus tells his disciples that he has *chosen* and *appointed* them (v. 16). In saying this, what Old Testament passages/ideas is he alluding to (see Deuteronomy 7:6-8; 14:2)? Why is this significant (see also John 15:1; compare with Psalm 80:8-12; Jeremiah 2:21; Hosea 10:1)?

Application

5. Jesus has saved us to be a (1) people, (2) set apart, for (3) his purpose, and as a result (4) reproduce. Which of these four gospel realities is easiest for you to believe? Why? Which is hardest? Why?
6. Jesus has already written a mission statement for each of our lives ("*go and bear fruit*"). Our life purpose is to make disciples. Take a look at your plans for the coming week (e.g. your calendar, to-do list, activities at home, at work, etc.). Based on what you observe, is making disciples a clear purpose of yours?¹ Why or why not?
7. Jeff said that mission isn't necessarily about adding activities to your life, but living everyday life with gospel intentionality.² What does this mean? In the coming week, what are some ways you can live with more, "*gospel intentionality*."
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?

¹ Taken from <http://somasrv.org/docs/Soma-Basics-Week5.pdf>

² Phrase taken from Chester and Timmis, *Total Church*, p. 64.