

WIDE AWAKE

BREAKING OUT OF OUR SPIRITUAL SLUMBER

#TMHWideAwake 

Week 1: In With Jesus

It is a solemn thing, and no small scandal in the Kingdom, to see God's children starving while actually seated at the Father's table.

The Pursuit of God, A.W. Tozer

The Disconnect

Taking Stock Of Your Spiritual Life

Encouraged & Open
Apathetic & Disappointed
Unsure

Where Are We Going?

- Week 1: In With Jesus – The Vine and The Branches (John 15)
- Week 2: Come A Little Bit Closer – Sacred Pathways and Spiritual Fruit (Galatians 5)
- Week 3: God In My Everything – How an Ancient Rhythm Helps Busy People Enjoy God (Ken Shigematsu)

The Connected Life

John 15:1-8

Vine & Vineyard – ancient sacred images representing the covenant people of God, planted and tended by him so that Israel would produce fruit. (Psalm 80:8-11; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 2:21; Ezekiel 15:1-5, 17:1-6, 19:10-15)

Jesus uses these images as a regular part of his teaching – see Matthew 20:1-16, 21:28-32; Mark 12:1-11; Luke 13:6-7.

Discipleship is not simply a matter of acknowledging who Jesus is, but about connecting our spiritual lives directly to the one who gives life and transforms us.

Connection – This intimate relationship with Jesus changes us from the inside out. What's important to Jesus becomes important to us, and our priorities shift (see Matthew 9:6; Mark 1:35-39; Luke 5:1-29, 6:27-45, etc.!) And the same power works in and through us! (Philippians 2:13)

The Surrendered Life

Moving from the Self-Life to the Christ-Life

Ways to Approach Our Spiritual Lives: Lessons From a BMW

1. Don't Do Anything
2. Addition & Subtraction
3. Realignment

The reality of *in-ness*, of being in Christ and Christ being in us, is the essence of the loving, transforming relationship Jesus invites us to enjoy. *Spiritual Rhythm*, Mark Buchanan

Following Jesus – Not the End...Just the Beginning

What is your next step?

- Home Church
- Explore spiritual practices/rhythms (The Daily Examen)
- Intentionality in your time with God
- Pay attention to what God is saying to you today
- Talk to a friend!

Interested In Learning More? Check these out:

- *God In My Everything*, Ken Shigematsu
- *The Pursuit of God*, A.W. Tozer
- *Spiritual Rhythm*, Mark Buchanan
- *Sacred Pathways*, Gary Thomas
- *The Practice of Godliness*, Jerry Bridges
- *Desire*, John Eldredge

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Home Church Questions...

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. What's your favourite type of fruit? Why?
2. Have you ever tried to grow your own fruits and/or vegetables? How did it go?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

3. Read **John 15:1-8**.
 - a. What verse or idea from the text (or Sunday's message) stands out to you? Why?
 - b. What does it mean for Jesus to be the "true vine"? (v.1)
 - c. How do you feel about the idea of God removing fruitless branches, and pruning those producing fruit so they will bear even more? (v.2)
 - d. In a practical sense, what do you think it means to remain in Christ (see **John 8:31**)? What are the results of remaining in Christ (see **1 John 2:5-6**)?
 - e. In verse 5 Jesus says, "...apart from me you can do nothing" (v.5). How do you feel about Jesus making this kind of statement? How do you interpret what it means? In what ways do our lives demonstrate our belief of this idea? In what ways do we ignore this?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together]

4. Honest gut-check time:
 - a. Based on the 3 options presented on Sunday (1. Don't Do Anything 2. Addition/Subtraction 3. Realignment), how do you typically approach spiritual growth in your life?
 - b. What kind of fruit are you bearing?
 - c. What area of your spiritual life do you feel encouraged about?
 - d. In what areas are you stuck, in a rut, and not fully awake?
 - e. What is your next step to become "wide awake"?
5. Pray for each other, that God would bring new life and hope into our lives, as we acknowledge our dependence on him and "remain".

Quotes...

It's one thing to witness spiritually empty people outside the church; it's even sadder to see Christians *inside* the church who suffer this same spiritual emptiness.

-- Gary Thomas, *Sacred Pathways*

The daily habit of spending time with God shapes us. Even if it is brief and not marked with ground-breaking insight or deep emotion – even when it feels perfunctory – it shapes us.

-- Ken Shigematsu, *God In My Everything*

We have to set aside any dependence upon our own wisdom and strength of character and draw all that we need from Christ through faith in Him.

-- Jerry Bridges, *The Practice of Godliness*

For it is not mere words that nourish the soul, but God Himself, and unless and until the hearers find God in personal experience they are not the better for having heard the truth.

-- A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

True godliness engages our affections and awakens within us a desire to enjoy God's presence and fellowship. It produces a longing for God Himself.

-- Jerry Bridges, *The Fruitful Life*

The transformation redefines who you are at a fundamental spiritual level, and your lifestyle is realigned according to that part of your being that was finally awakened to the things of God.

-- George Barna, *Revolution*

Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.

-- Ephesians 3:17-18