

“THE VINE LIFE”
John 15:1-5

Vital
Inspiration
Now (and for)
Eternity

Jesus-Shaped Discipleship for young Christians by transformation beyond information.

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE of “The Vine Life” is found in John 15:1-5. This passage lays out the Christian Life of Discipleship by revealing JESUS AS THE INDISPENSABLE SOURCE of the life of Christian discipleship.

This course becomes training for discipleship by moving in a progressive fashion from INFORMATION to TRANSFORMATION.

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES for “The Vine Life”

1. The Kingdom of God-Divine ownership of our lives. John 15:1.
2. God’s process of growth in faith and fruitfulness through trials, pain and suffering. How we interpret God’s growth process through these life difficulties. John 15:2
3. The Good News of God’s Grace, Love and Forgiveness in Jesus. This Good News gives us the safety and security to grow in discipleship with no fear of rejection or abandonment by God. Eternal Security in Jesus. John 15:3.
4. Jesus as your life, rather than merely being a small part of your life. Living IN Jesus. Living OUT OF Jesus. John 15:4.
5. Learning Powerless Dependence on Jesus. Living a life of total dependence on Jesus. John 15:5.

THE PROCESS OF “The Vine Life”.

1. Students learn and grow as “individuals in community”.

2. Each young disciple is given the opportunity to “Live with Jesus as a disciple” by studying the Gospel of Matthew. This is done independently by means of a study packet provided by pastor. Parents and siblings are encouraged to grow along side the young disciple in this study. The Gospel of Matthew was the “catechism” of the Early Church. The Gospel of Matthew contains the Six Chief Parts of Faith set down by Martin Luther in the Small Catechism. The Gospel of Matthew prepares young disciples for reception of the Lord’s Supper. The Gospel of Matthew inspires young disciples to be witnesses to their faith by spending generous amounts of time with Jesus. The Gospel of Matthew teaches young disciples to a life of prayer and prayerfulness. Each young disciple will also learn of God’s forgiving righteousness in Jesus by studying the Book of Romans.
3. Each young disciple pursues additional growth in discipleship by completing elective study of two more New Testament books. These elective New Testament books are chosen for young disciples to grow in faith-specific ways. The following electives are:
 - A. The Book of Galatians “Living Free in Jesus”
 - B. The Book of Ephesians “What We Have in Jesus”
 - C. The Book of Philippians “A Joyous Life in Jesus”
 - D. The Book of Colossians “Jesus-Above All”
 - E. The Book of James “Jesus and A Life of Action”
 - F. Old Testament Survey: “Jesus in the Old Testament”

The young disciples will meet with pastor as well as the rest of the group (Community of Disciples) weekly for the express purpose of encountering the Risen and Living Jesus by spending time in God’s Word, prayer and conversation for mutual consolation, comfort and encouragement. Progress made/discussion of individual work can be done at this time, one on one or in small groups with pastor.

4. The young disciples will have the opportunity to live as active disciples by becoming involved in SERVICE TO OTHERS. Some options for such service includes:
 - A. Serving as an usher during worship.
 - B. Serving as an acolyte during worship.