

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

1. TWO OPTIONS:

Option 1: Use this in a Group Setting

In this Facilitator Guide, you will find instructions, time frames, and extra notes just for you. The student guide is in a separate file; be sure to make copies for each student in your group.

Option 2: Use this in a Mentoring Relationship, or for an individual student

Just make a copy of the Student Guide and give it (or send it) to the student (all the instructions they need are already there). If you are mentoring a student, make an extra copy of the Student Guide for yourself and walk alongside the student as he/she goes through this study.

WAIT! WHAT IF WE DON'T HAVE A STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM?

Starting a student leadership team is hard, and honestly, it's okay if you don't have one. LeaderTreks wants to help you get started and walk the road with you. If you don't have student leaders, try using this resource with a group of 2 or 3 students to start with (refer to Option 2).

2. **YOUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY:** Each leadership lesson contains a different leadership growth module. They're designed to help you guide your students as they explore their own leadership skills and prepare them to make real-life applications. Spend a few minutes walking through the prompts and helping your students discover the next steps in their leadership journey.
3. **APPLY IT:** Challenge students to get specific. Growth happens when we make a plan, then ask others to keep us accountable. Make a plan to follow-up with your students individually.

OBJECTIVE

We can root ourselves in different things—the Parable of the Sower tells of seed scattered in different environments: some take root and thrive, others grow shallow roots, while some never take root at all. In this lesson, students will look at John 15:1–17 and discuss what happens when a disciple is rooted in good soil and stays connected to the true vine.

OPENING QUESTION

2–3 minutes

- Have you ever seen (either firsthand or in pictures) the destruction after a tornado, hurricane, or other natural disaster? What did it look like?

FACILITATOR NOTE: If your group of students is small enough, you can have each person share their answer. Otherwise, for a larger group, have them pair and share to answer these questions.

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT

10–15 minutes

Read the following together:

Strong roots anchor trees and other plants to the ground. When firmly rooted in the earth, a plant stays connected to water and nutrients that sustain its life. Deep roots keep a plant from becoming uprooted when wind howls and weather rages. And while each part of a plant is vital for its survival and for producing fruit, the roots are the foundation that enables this whole system to function. A plant that is not rooted will not last long and will certainly be unable to bear fruit. **Take a moment and read what John wrote in John 15:1–17.**

Kingdom leaders need to be rooted—deeply connected to their source of life in order to have any godly influence on those around them. A believer or leader who is cut off at the roots, or from any part of the plant, will not survive. Scripture uses plant and gardening analogies over and over again to make this important point.

As a student leader, God will call us to take steps of faith that are honoring and glorifying to him. Following through in obedience to his calling will bring about growth and maturity. As a tree grows bigger and stronger as it matures, our faith will also grow stronger as it matures. But, as this passage of Scripture points out, we cannot grow through our own abilities. We must stay connected to Christ.

Jesus made it pretty clear that we are incapable of doing anything godly apart from abiding in him (vs. 4–5). Staying connected to Christ is the key to our spiritual development. Apart from his involvement in our lives, we will not be able to produce fruit or make an impact in his Kingdom.

DISCUSS:

- What do you think it means to “remain” or “abide in”?
- What things does this passage say to remain in?
- What is the relationship between remaining/abiding and being rooted?
- How does our being rooted in the Lord keep us remaining in his love and obeying his commands?

YOUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

10–15 minutes

Leadership is a journey, and great leaders are constantly pushing themselves to grow. Work through the following activity to help you grow as a leader in general and focusing specifically on the leadership principle you’ve just studied.

FACILITATOR NOTE: Guide your students through the leadership growth module below. Talk through the prompts, then give students a few minutes on their own or in pairs to work through the activity. If you have time, before moving on to the Apply It section, ask students to share some of their answers with the group.

STEP-BY-STEP GOALS

Think of one way you could be better connected to Christ and plan out some practical steps:

STEP 1: Write down your goal in the WHERE I WANT TO BE box.

STEP 2: Write down how you’re currently doing in the WHERE I AM NOW box.

STEP 3: Write down steps you need to take/things you may need to give up to reach your goal in the TODAY, THIS WEEK, and THIS MONTH boxes.

<p>WHERE I AM NOW</p>	<p>HERE’S WHAT I NEED TO DO...</p>			<p>WHERE I WANT TO BE</p>
	<p>TODAY</p>	<p>THIS WEEK</p>	<p>THIS MONTH</p>	



APPLY IT

2–3 minutes

Prompt your students to use their answers from the leadership growth module above as a springboard for making a real-life application. *SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Think of the activity you just completed. Use your answers as a starting point to help you figure out how you'll apply what you're learning in your everyday life.*

What is one thing you can do this week to remain connected to Christ?

What are you going to do?

When are you going to do it?

Is there someone who can keep you accountable?

FACILITATOR NOTE: Whenever students make applications, challenge them to be specific. It's one thing to say, "I'm going to trust God more." The truth is, our students won't really know if they did this, or if they grew in trust over the week. It's another thing to say, "Every morning this week before I eat breakfast, I'm going to tell God that today is his and that I trust him, and I'm going to ask him to give me the strength to replace worries with trust." So, challenge your students to be specific. You can even have them pair and share their applications and ask for accountability from their partner.

PRAY

5–10 minutes

Spend a few minutes praying with students. Pray that you would abide and remain deeply rooted in Christ, who is the true vine.

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