



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

Answer:

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT

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.

ANSWER:

- 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

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.

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.

WHERE I AM NOW	HERE'S WHAT I NEED TO DO...			WHERE I WANT TO BE
	TODAY	THIS WEEK	THIS MONTH	

APPLY IT

Think of the activity you just completed above to help you apply the leadership principle from this lesson.

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?

