



Joy! Church | 2.11.24

We love you. Yes, you

What jobs do branches do?  
Name some things



## John 15:4-5

Jesus, with His disciples in upper room during Last Supper, mere hours before His betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane

**ESV.** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

**NIV.** Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

## John 15:4-5

Jesus, with His disciples in upper room during Last Supper, mere hours before His betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane

**MSG.** Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. 5 I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant.

**TPT.** So you must remain in life-union with me, grafted into me, for I remain in life-union with you. For as a branch severed from the vine will not bear fruit, so your life will be fruitless unless you live your life intimately joined to mine. 5 I am the sprouting vine and you're my branches. As you live in union with me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you—but when you live separated from me you are powerless.



**I really mean it. ~ Jesus**

God's gifts are many; His best is the gift of Himself. ~ A.W. Tozer

## **Focus 40: The resurrection of Christmidst**

- Summon resurrection power that lasts:  
Christ's, yours, ours
- 40 days, Wed., Feb 14<sup>th</sup> to Sun., Mar 28<sup>th</sup>
- Spiritual disciplines:  
Lovingly fast I/me/my/we
- Focus our minds to behold Jesus with love  
(not remotely empty them)
- Less about well-mannered denials  
more about thinning our lives in order  
to thicken our life-union with God



## A spiritual disciplines sampler

### Disciplines of Abstinence

- Solitude: time alone
- Silence: remove distractions
- Fasting: skip meals or foods
- Frugality: live on less money
- Chastity: freely choose no sex
- Secrecy: avoid self promotion
- Sacrifice: give resources

### Disciplines of Activity

- Study: read scripture
- Worship: praise, adore God
- Prayer: talk with, listen to God
- Fellowship: body care, ministry
- Confession: tell God & others
- Submission: humble yourself
- Service: provide unmet needs

### Invitations to Action

- Download handout from JC Family Connection Facebook page
- Will also be available on the page that has this message recording: [www.joychurch.life](http://www.joychurch.life)
- List of book(s) for a deeper dive into the goodness and power of spiritual disciplines:  
E-mail, call or text the church: [info@joychurch.life](mailto:info@joychurch.life) || 775.575.9336

## Table Time

- **One person at your table, role play:**

*You have been called in to give counsel to your tablemates. Holy Spirit has revealed to you that they simply need to connect with God. He says, "Just tell them John 15:4-5 but use your own words."*  
Now say that aloud

- **Discuss:**

What are the main things that interfere with being a branch?

- **Share with one another:**

Your top one or two consistent go-to's (habits) you use to connect deeply with the Spirit of God, or to just get over yourself

