



LESSON 5: MEN AND HUSBANDS WHO THRIVE

WELCOME

Answer one of the following:

- Who is a man (outside of your family) that God used at the right time in your life to encourage or guide you? What did he do?



WORSHIP

- Take some time to pray for one another and any difficult seasons that your fellow Life Group members might be facing.



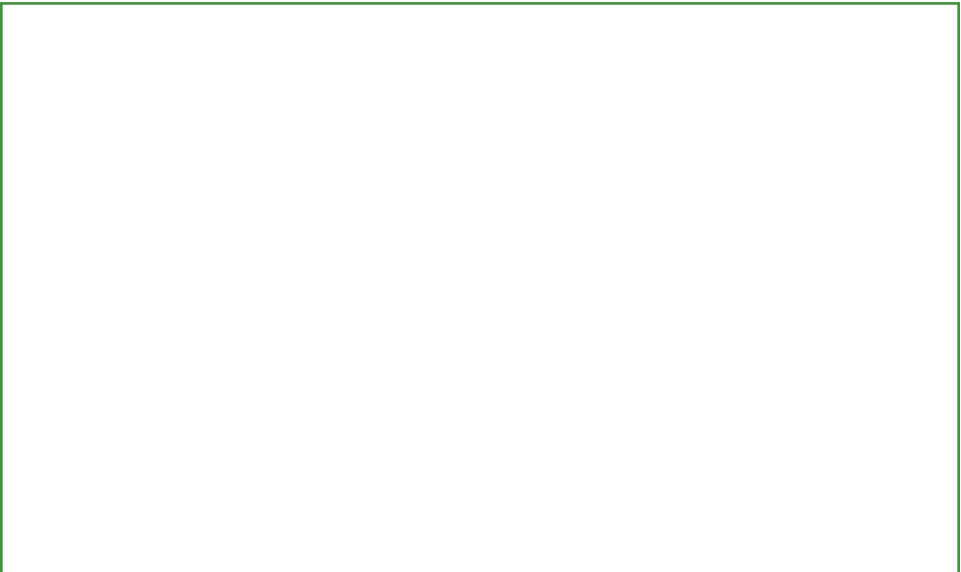
*****Below are seven discussion questions/prompts. There's no pressure to cover every question. As a Life Group, feel free to choose the questions/prompts that you want to cover and use the rest for personal reflection and deeper study during the week. If you haven't already, watch the video lesson on Shepherd Church's [Life Groups webpage](#).**

WORD

1. In the video lesson, Abe said thriving begins with surrender rather than performance. Do you agree with this concept? Why or why not?



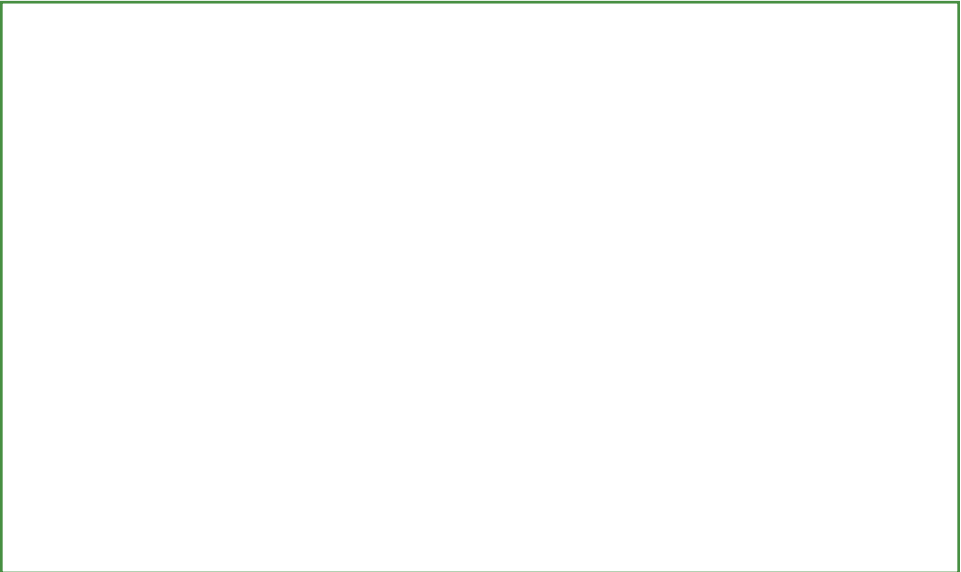
2. What stands out to you about the way Jesus defines leadership in [Ephesians 5:25, 29](#)?



3. Read **Romans 12:1-2**. Where do you see the pressure to “conform to the pattern of this world” showing up in everyday life? What role does renewed thinking play in changing unhealthy patterns in your life?




4. While many people are taught to hide their weaknesses and handle problems alone, how do **Romans 12:9-10**; **1 Corinthians 16:13-14**; and **Philippians 1:27** present a different picture?



5. Where might fear be keeping you from responding courageously this week?



6. What does *John 15:5-8* look like in everyday life, and how can you put this into practice this week?



7. Reflect on the past few weeks and share one or two of your biggest takeaways from the Thrive series.

WITNESS

Share the name of someone in your life who still needs to follow Jesus. How can you share Jesus with that person this week? Pray about inviting that person to the F.I.T. sermon series that begins this coming weekend. Also, make sure everyone in your Life Group has an update on your outreach project.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DEEPER STUDY FOR THIS WEEK

This section is designed to help you continue growing in your faith throughout the week by reflecting more deeply on what you explored in your Life Group. Hopefully, these prompts and questions will create space for you to listen to God, apply Scripture to your life, and take your next step in following Jesus. Whether you work through them all at once or over a longer period, our hope is that your time with God will draw you closer to Him and strengthen your walk with Jesus. And please, don't rush. Go at your own pace, and invite the Holy Spirit to guide your time.

- Review anything in the WORD section that either was not covered during your Life Group or that you want to take a deeper dive into.
- Memorize *John 15:5* and/or *1 Corinthians 16:13–14*.

- Read **John 15:1–27** all the way through each day this week in one sitting. You can also download the **YouVersion Bible App** and listen to it.
- Read **John 15:1–27** and write down your answers to the following questions:
 - o What repeated words or images stand out to you in this chapter (such as vine, branches, remain/abide, fruit, love, or command)? What might these repeated ideas reveal about what it means to stay connected to Jesus?
 - o What sins are in the passage or insinuated that you need to avoid?
 - o Does the passage have any spiritual challenges that you need to accept?
 - o Does the passage discuss attitudes we need to adopt or avoid?
 - o Are there examples in the passage that we need to follow or avoid?
 - o What do verses 1–4 teach about depending on Jesus?
 - o After reading verse 2, what do you think Jesus means by fruit in a Christian's life?
 - o Verse 5 describes a close relationship between the vine and the branches. How does this inform your understanding of how spiritual growth actually happens? Think of similar verses and write them down.
 - o In verses 6–8, Jesus connects remaining in Him with answered prayer and bearing fruit. What do these verses suggest about the relationship between prayer, obedience, and spiritual effectiveness?
 - o Verse 8 says that bearing fruit brings glory to the Father. What kinds of attitudes or actions in your life might reflect God's character to others?
 - o Verse 10 connects remaining in Jesus' love with obedience. How does obedience help deepen (not weaken) your relationship with Him?
 - o Verse 11 says Jesus wants His joy to be in you and your joy to be complete. What do you think complete joy looks like according to Jesus?
 - o Read verses 12–13. What does Jesus' example show about the depth and cost of real love?
 - o Verse 13 says, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." What are some practical ways Christians can reflect this kind of sacrificial love today?
 - o According to verses 14–17, what does this change in relationship language reveal about how Jesus relates to His people?
 - o Verse 16 says Jesus chose His followers and appointed them to bear lasting fruit. How does knowing that Jesus chose you shape your understanding of your personal purpose and calling?
 - o In verses 18–25, Jesus warns that His followers may face opposition from the world. Why can following Jesus lead to resistance or misunderstanding?
 - o In verses 26–27, Jesus promises the help of the Holy Spirit. What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping believers remain faithful and share their faith with others?