

The Trellis and the Vine - Chapter 3
Group Week of: September 22, 2024



Instructions:

1. Read the assigned chapter.
2. Answer questions in the handout.
3. Discuss with your life group.

Comprehension

- 1) What sort of disappointment and lament did the writers of Psalm 80 feel when looking at the vine of Israel? (pg. 32, paragraphs 2-3)

- 2) What did God promise to do with Israel, His nearly fruitless vine? (pg. 33, paragraph 1; Hosea 14:4-7)

- 3) What is God doing now? (pg. 35, paragraph 4)

- 4) What does “the word of God increased” mean? (pg. 36, paragraph 2)

- 5) Of the three implications on pages 38-39, which is most important to you personally? Why?

Evaluate

- 1) Read and study Luke 13:18-21.
 - a. What is Jesus trying to teach us when He compares the Kingdom of God to yeast working its way through sixty pounds of flour or a single seed becoming a great mustard bush?

- 2) What sort of disappointments and laments have you had about the state of the American church (or even West Side)?

- 3) How do God’s promises to Israel and about His Kingdom challenge and give hope to your disappointments and laments?

- 4) Because God brings His Kingdom to fruition through Spirit-empowered preaching of the gospel, His followers will certainly participate in that work. Where do you see Spirit-empowered preaching of the gospel in West Side Church? Where do you see it in your own life?

Apply

- 1) Too often we look at the “decline of the church” in Europe, Canada, and America while simultaneously seeing the rise of Mormonism and Islam and declare woes over Christ’s church. Do you believe that God is building His church or that the world is slowly suffocating it?
- 2) How are you personally engaged in the work of Spirit-empowered preaching of the gospel?
- 3) What step can you take this week to engage more deliberately in this critical Kingdom-building work?