

Sermon Study Guide – April 28th, 2024

"Living Faith Grows"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ How can you be sure that a plant is living? Can you think of any examples where a plant looks like it is alive, but is not? What causes a plant to grow?
- ◆ Today in our sermon text, Jesus will compare our faith to plant life. How is our faith like a plant? How might it look alive when it is not? What causes our faith to grow?

2) Today's Message: John 15:1-6

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. ⁴You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit^{of} of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

3) What does God want you to hear today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:



Answer the following questions if it helps you follow the sermon...

1. Of all the plant imagery we will employ in the sermon, use the space below to write down illustrations that are meaningful to you.
2. Why is growth so important, and how does that apply to our faith?
3. When it comes to spiritual growth, where do *we* so often focus?
4. While all Christians claim faith, what kind of faith does *God* want us to have?
5. In what way is a “living, growing faith” not so hard to find?

4) Taking it Home:

Read the following sections of the Bible to reinforce this week's truths:

Monday: *read/review* Ac. 4:32-37, 1 Jn. 3:18-24 **Thursday:** James 2

Tuesday: Galatians 5:13-26

Friday: Psalm 1

Wednesday: Luke 13:1-9, 18-21

Saturday: *read/review* John 15:1-17