

# CHURCH AS ABIDING BRANCHES

John 15.4-11 // March 3, 2024

## WE'RE ALREADY ABIDING AND BEARING FRUIT

Because none of us are truly originators, but rather reflectors and interpreters, we are all already abiding, being formed, and bearing fruit. But *to what* we are abiding and *what kind of fruit* we are producing, that is the big question. Most of us as Christians know what we *want* to abide in and produce, but where we fall short is making the way to do it.

John 5.39, 40 // Galatians 6.7, 5.16-26 // John 10.10 // Ephesians 3.14-21

## TRAINING ON A TRELLIS

The old phrase "Rule of Life" was used to describe basic values and rhythms and practices to incorporate in life in order to keep you headed in the direction you desired (like a ruler helps draw a straight line). "Rule" came from the Latin "regula," which was also used to describe a trellis. Without a trellis, branches will still bear fruit, but they are susceptible to rotting on the ground or being devoured by rodents. A trellis is a structure to help support the branches so that they bear much fruit, and healthy fruit.

**We all already have a trellis...but is it a good trellis?**

**One Definition of Commitment:** Falling in love with something and then building a structure of behavior around it for the moments when love falters.

**Today, you are young and in love and think your love can sustain your marriage. But it can't.  
Rather, let your marriage sustain your love.**  
-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## IN DUE SEASON WE WILL REAP

Proverbs 24.16 // Galatians 6.7-9

In all these things, we will fail, and this is why we need a trellis. A trellis is something like crutches or training wheels that allow us to climb back up and get going again. But we must also take advantage of these failures and see them not as hindrances to our training, but the necessary work of UN-training. It is humbling to fail, and being humbled is good! This is part of the pruning process, and our failures reveal *how dependent* we have become on our *current/old trellis*. Our gravitational pull is towards distraction or comfort or entertainment, and our failures reveal that.

**We train ourselves in what we can do  
to prepare ourselves to receive what only God can do:  
transform us to be like Jesus.**

## NOTES:

### Announcements:

**Women's Gathering:** We will be kicking off our 2024 Women's Gathering study on the Full Armor of God tomorrow, 7pm, at Carrie Erdos' house. Katie will be leading the study on the Belt of Truth. Scan the QR code for more details and to sign up!



### This Week's Call to Worship Psalm:

**Psalm 71:1-8**

### This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

**John 6.37**

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

## ARE YOU NEW HERE?

### WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

### WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at [amber@lifemission.tv](mailto:amber@lifemission.tv)**

### JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at [tyler@lifemission.tv](mailto:tyler@lifemission.tv)**.



## Contact Us

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## CONNECT WITH LMC



Point your smart  
phone camera at  
the QR Code to  
access a virtual  
Connection Card

### MAILING ADDRESS:

Life Mission Church  
420 Twin Oaks Valley Rd., #908  
San Marcos, CA 92079

## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Open the evening reciting the **Memory Verse** together. Then open to the **Call to Worship Psalm** and have someone open the night by *praying* the Psalm.

Read **John 15.4-11** What stands out in here and from Sunday's sermon?

### Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

Read the "Definition of Commitment" and the Bonhoeffer quote. How do these apply to building our own trellis or habits to support real growth in the Vine? What current habits, or habits in the past, have been helpful to support your own growth, and what Gospel truths encourage you to stay committed to those habits and help motivate you to keep going even after you fail in them?

### Your Life Mission

For us to produce fruit that remains and that is blessing to others, well, we first need to bear fruit! And abiding in Christ is the only way we can do that, for as apart from Him, we can do nothing. What habits or practices are you wanting to train yourself in so you can ready yourself for more transformation in Christ, and what are the biggest roadblocks for you? How can others be praying for you and helping you as you commit to this training?

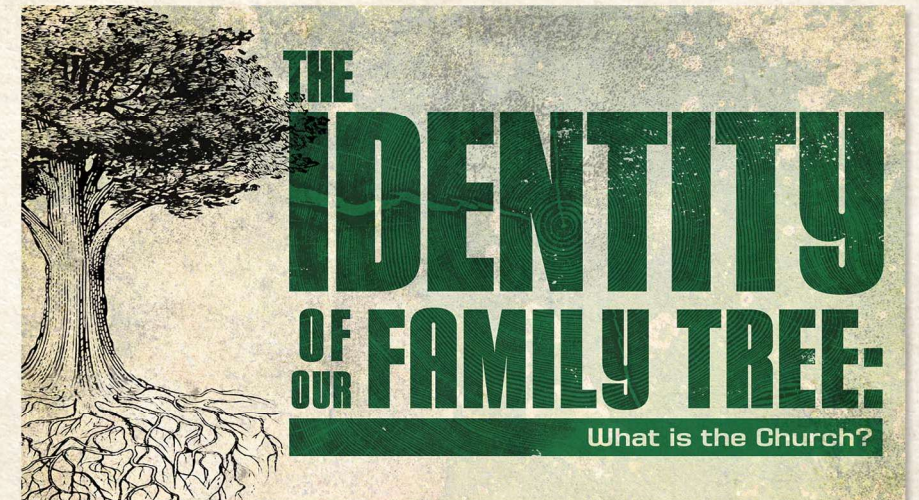
## THE LORD'S P.R.A.Y.er MODEL

- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself (Matthew 6.9, 10)**
  - Always begin your time of prayer focusing on God's goodness, who He is, and what He has done for us. Pray truths from this week's text.
- **Repent and Confess (Matthew 6.12)**
  - Confess any particular sin that prevents you from walking out what God calls us to in the text, or any other particular sin you are wanting to fight. Ask Him to help you have strength to repent and run towards Him.
- **Ask for Provision (Matthew 6.11-13)**
  - Ask God for new perspective and for the things that you need. Once our hearts are fixed on Him, we can ask Him to help us with our needs. When your heart is begin filled with the Gospel first, your asking will be far more in line with God's desires and will. Ask Him to work in the relationships in your life that you are hoping to share God's love with.
- **Yield with Thanksgiving (Matthew 6.10)**
  - End your prayer by giving God thanks for His faithfulness and ask Him to help you trust and yield to His work and ways.



LIFE MISSION  
CHURCH

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,  
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.



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### SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School  
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

## GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US ONLINE

LIFEMISSIONCHURCH.COM



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