



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dear Life Group Leaders,

Can you believe it? This coming Thursday is Thanksgiving! And as we count our blessings this season, one of the most important things for which we give thanks is you and your ministry to us and our church family. May God give you a joyous time of celebration with your family and friends!

This week's study takes us to John chapter 15 and our 5th picture of the church – a vine representing Jesus and the branches representing our relationship with Him and one another. To help you prepare for your discussion, we've included a message from Pastor John MacArthur on this passage. We hope you'll find it helpful especially as you try to answer the question of the unfruitful branches that are burned in the fire. Does this mean we can lose our salvation and perish in hell if we fail to bear fruit? MacArthur does a good job of explaining this based on the context.

You should also find this week's coaching tip helpful. It includes two icebreakers that you can use to help your group express their thankfulness in a creative way. They are followed by an article intended to help you become an even more effective shepherd of your small group. Please take time to read it.

God bless you for your faithful ministry each week!

Pastors Gary and Glen