

## Prayer and Collect

Spend some time praying for one another as you seek to abide in Jesus from Monday to Saturday. This could be done altogether or in smaller groups of two or three; out loud or in silence.

**Lord Jesus,  
you send us out into your world  
to be your witnesses  
in the things we say and do.  
Grant us the help of the Holy Spirit  
that we may point people to your love,  
and so bring glory to you. Amen.**

## Looking ahead

Notice what difference it makes to how you feel, speak and act when you think of your Monday-to-Saturday life as your 'frontline'.

## Reflections for individuals

Readings for this week

**Monday** = Genesis 2.15-17  
**Tuesday** = Ephesians 1.3-14  
**Wednesday** = Genesis 41.1-45  
**Thursday** = Daniel 3.8-18  
**Friday** = Acts 8.26-40

# EVERYDAY WITNESS

## 4

## 4: Our Calling to the World

### Introducing the theme *(read aloud)*

We all have a 'frontline'...even if we don't think we do. After a sermon one Sunday, a lady in her eighties told the vicar she didn't think she had a 'frontline'. A couple of minutes of chat later and she realised that she did. She was a member of the local Women's Institute and she knew that they all watched her to see what a difference being a Christian made! There was her opportunity to bear witness; a gift and a calling from the Lord.

### Icebreaker

What are your 'frontlines'? Talk with one other person in your group and see if you can help each other to see where God is calling you to be a witness for him.

### Collect

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## Reading

### **John 15:1-11**

This is part of Jesus' so-called 'farewell discourse' to his disciples. There is a sense that he is communicating vital instructions to them as he prepares them for life without this physical presence. So these instructions are particularly important as a guide for us as his followers.

## Discussion

The image of the vine is one with a history in the Old Testament. Take a look at Isaiah 5:1-7, in which Israel is pictured as God's vineyard.

1 How does Isaiah 5:7 help us to understand what being fruitful looks like?

Think, too, about the seed-bearing purpose of fruit in nature. Jesus tells the disciples that they will only bear fruit if they abide in the vine – in him.

2 What does it mean to be 'apart' from Jesus (John 15:7) and conversely to 'abide' (or 'remain') in him?

3 When have you borne fruit for God on your frontlines? What has that fruit looked like?

Here are some pointers:

Jesus suggests that abiding in him primarily involves obedience to his commandments and instructions. So we bear fruit when we are obedient.

Mark Greene suggests 6 key areas in which we can bear fruit on our 'frontlines' (each of which reflects Jesus' instructions in the Gospels):

**modelling** godly character;

**making** good work;

**ministering grace and love**

**moulding** culture

being a **mouthpiece** for truth and justice;

being a **messenger** for the gospel.

## Activity

Spend some time discussing which of the six areas of obedience to Jesus are particularly relevant to your 'frontlines'. For instance, you might see a glaring need for justice for fellow employees.

Alternatively, you might know of a situation in which doing these things made a real difference that others saw and appreciated. Where are the challenges on your 'frontline' this coming week?