



# GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF 3.3.2024 | I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCH

## WARM-UP QUESTION

Do you enjoy gardening? What is your favorite thing to plant/harvest?

## DISCUSS

Read [John 15:1-8](#)

- What does verse 1-3 tell us about God and Jesus?
- Why do gardeners pull out dead branches? What is the purpose of pruning? Why do you think Jesus chose to use this metaphor?
- In what ways have you tried to produce spiritual fruit in your own life, apart from Jesus, and how has that failed you?
- There are three types of branches: (1) branches that are connected but not bearing fruit, (2) branches that are bearing fruit that get pruned and (3) branches on the ground and not connected. What do each of these branches look like played out in a person's life? Which category do you fall under?
- In verse 7 Jesus says, "But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!" When you abide, the things you ask for change. How are the things you ask of Jesus (pray for) different when you are abiding versus when you are not?
- What does this passage tell us about God's love and the fullness he wants for our lives?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity? In what ways is our humanity different from God?
- What does abiding look like in your life right now? What would you want abiding to look like in your life? What is one thing you could do to abide in him more and to produce the fruit he's asking us to produce?
- At the end of this passage, Jesus says "When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciple." The word disciple means "learner" or "apprentice." Why do you think Jesus chose to end this passage in this way? How does abiding and producing fruit make us more like Jesus?

Read [Galatians 5:22-25](#)

- We cannot produce the fruit. This is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit produces the fruit. The branch doesn't say "I want to produce an apple." It produces an apple because it remains connected to the vine. It is not our responsibility to produce fruit. It is our responsibility to remain connected to the vine. Is this a new concept to you? Why or why not?
- Trying harder is counterproductive and will always leave us discouraged. How would our life look different if we focused on abiding instead of trying harder?



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- How does understanding that we need to abide (John 15) change the way we view the fruits of the Spirit?
- Can you think of a time you were actively abiding and have seen the fruit being produced
- What fruits are you seeing produced in your life? What fruits are you not seeing produced in your life?
- How can you position yourself to bear more fruit? What steps can you take? What would look different about your life if you were to bear more fruit?

## RESPOND

- Based on what you just discussed, what do you think God is prompting you to do in response? What is He calling you to do this week? When will you do it?
- Pray together as a group for the specific goals or areas of struggle that came up in your discussion. Thank God for revealing more of who He is, and ask Him to help you apply what He's prompting you to do this week.