

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

I Am the True Vine

John 15:1-10

Read John 15:1-10

1. There are many layers to this passage, but it is also beautiful in the simplicity of its invitation. If you were to summarise Jesus message in one sentence what would it be?
2. Jesus calls Himself the **True Vine**. This statement, while an invitation to us, is also a statement about other “vines” that are inferior. What are some of the modern "cultural vines" we are tempted to connect ourselves to in the hope of finding purpose, identity and contentment?
3. The vine we are connected to determines the fruit. What is the fruit of some of these other “cultural vines”?
4. In 15:2, Jesus mentions that the Father prunes branches that are already bearing fruit so they can bear even more.
 - a. Why do you think God alters or removes things in our lives even when things seem to be going well?
 - b. Can you think of some good things that have been ‘pruned’ from your life that created more space for ‘better’ or ‘greater’ things.
 - c. Pruning can be painful. What are the reasons that we so often fear the process?

5. In 15:6 Jesus talks about what happens to branches that are removed from the vine. What are some of the things that show you are starting to run on your own strength rather than staying connected to Jesus?
6. The word "remain" or "abide" is used a lot in this passage. In the middle of a stressful workday, a chaotic morning with kids, or a difficult conversation, what does it actually look like to remain connected to Him? How do we practice His presence in the ordinary moments?
7. In 15:9-10 Jesus talks about the key to remaining being obedience. Why is obedience key to 'remaining'? Jesus isn't telling us that we need to earn God's love – why is remaining very different to earning?