



Week 24
Discussion Questions

Text: John 15:1-17

Icebreaker: If you could only eat one fruit for the rest of your life, which one would it be?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?
2. This passage begins with the final "I am" statement from Jesus found in the book of John. What does this metaphor reveal about Jesus' identity?
3. Read Psalm 80:8-13; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 12:10; Ezekiel 17 (this one is long and can be skimmed if time is sparse). Who is the vine referenced in these passages and what happened to the vine?

When Jesus presents his disciples with the metaphor of the vine, it is not random or out of place. The disciples would have been highly familiar with this imagery as it is found throughout the Old Testament Scriptures. Historical records also tell us that a golden vine adorned the entrance of the temple, where the disciples may have been in this scene.

4. With this in mind, what significance does Jesus' renewed use of this metaphor have for his disciples and for us today?
5. Jesus assumes that his followers will "bear fruit" but says they cannot do so without abiding in him. He uses the word "abide" eleven times in John 15:1-17. What does it mean to abide in Jesus?
6. What is the "fruit" Jesus says we will produce as the result of abiding?

Read Galatians 5:22-26.

7. Jesus tells the disciples that they are "already clean" (Jn 15:3). The fruit produced in our lives is the work of the Holy Spirit in us, it is not something we produce on our own and it is not something that saves us. This is an important distinction. What does it look like for you to abide in Christ and live by the Spirit in your life?

The process of "pruning" has two purposes: disciplinary and directional. Sometimes the vinedresser removes a dying branch that hinders new growth and sometimes the vinedresser removes a healthy branch in order to direct new growth in a different direction.

8. When have you experienced "pruning" in your life? (Either when God cut off something negative that needed to be removed or when God cut off something good, but it created room for more growth in a different direction)? What was the result of God's pruning?

9. Jesus relates abiding and bearing fruit to our relationship with our fellow believers. What is the connection between loving others and abiding in Jesus?
10. What lately has deepened your connection with Christ?
11. What lately has been hindering your connection with Christ?