

Small Group Guide: Rooted in the True Vine

Key Takeaways

1. Jesus describes himself as the true vine, with his followers as branches meant to bear fruit.
2. There's a way to live that brings flourishing, celebration, and joy when we remain connected to Jesus.
3. God prunes our lives to make us more fruitful, removing things that hinder our growth.
4. Seeking nourishment from sources other than Jesus ultimately leaves us unfulfilled.
5. God can bring good out of difficult circumstances and loss in our lives.

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?
2. The pastor mentioned that Israel was often described as God's vineyard in the Old Testament. How does Jesus' claim to be the "true vine" change or fulfill this metaphor?
3. Have you ever experienced a time when getting what you wished for turned out to be harmful? How does this relate to Jesus' promise that we'll "get whatever we wish" if we remain in him?
4. The sermon talks about God "pruning" our lives. Can you share an experience where you felt God removing something from your life that seemed good at the time, but ultimately wasn't fruitful?
5. How do you practically "abide" or "remain" in Jesus in your daily life? What challenges do you face in staying connected to him?
6. The pastor used the analogy of being "plugged in" to the internet. What are some things in modern life that people tend to get overly "plugged into" instead of Jesus?
7. How have you seen God bring good out of difficult circumstances in your life or the lives of others?



Practical Applications:

1. This week, take time to reflect on areas of your life that may need "pruning." Ask God to reveal anything that's hindering your spiritual growth.
2. Practice intentionally "abiding" in Jesus each day. This could involve dedicated prayer time, Scripture reading, or simply being more aware of God's presence throughout your day.
3. If you're struggling with a loss or difficult circumstance, share it with the group and pray together, asking God to bring something good out of the situation.
4. Evaluate your use of technology and social media. Are these things "sapping life" from you or enhancing your connection with God and others? Consider making adjustments if needed.
5. Look for opportunities to be "fruitful" this week by serving others or sharing God's love in practical ways.

Prayer Focus:

Thank God for being the good gardener of our lives. Ask for the strength to trust Him even when we don't understand the pruning process. Pray for a deepening connection to Jesus as the true vine and for lives that bear much fruit.