



Life Group Notes: 'Remaining True'

Tuesday 2nd February 2021

READ THESE VERSES TOGETHER:

John 15:1-2, 4-5, 8 – Jesus said:

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. **2** Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **4** Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, is he that bears much fruit, for apart from me, you can do nothing. **8** By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." (*Further reading: John 1:1-8*).

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Jesus attends to us as a patient Gardener and tells us that:

- 1) The Father corrects the fruitless** – v2 "*Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away...*" Further reading: Luke 13:6-8
 - God in his mercy delays cutting back branches or trees that do not bear fruit. He allows difficulties to help you grow faster and stronger – a bit like using dung fertilizer with trees and plants. Are there areas of your life that feel smelly and messy? Do you believe God is helping you grow through it?
- 2) The Father prunes the fruitful** – v2 "*...every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*"
 - God knows your capacity is much greater than you think. Pruning causes a purging – or stripping down and cleaning – ready to become more fruitful. Have you ever felt a stripping away of things in your life? How does the promise of this verse give you hope during those times?
- 3) The Father cares for the faithful** – v7 "*If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*"
 - Your requests to God are determined by your position with God – it is your decision to remain in the vine. What actions can you take today to make sure you stay connected to Jesus?

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS:

- Pray that during stinky, unpleasant circumstances we will trust God to help us grow stronger.
- Pray that we will allow God to prune us so we can bear much more fruit for his glory.
- Spend some time asking Holy Spirit to help us all to remain close to Jesus and connected to him.