



Growth Group discussion questions for John 15:1-17
Week of May 27-30, 2018

1. NCC Q38: What is prayer?
A: Prayer is pouring out our hearts to God in praise, petition, confession of sin, and thanksgiving.
Memorize, meditate on and be ready to recite **Ephesians 6:18**.
2. What principles or thoughts had the most impact on you from the message on this passage on May 27th? How were you specifically challenged? What points of application did you take away from the message?
3. Read John 15:1-17 carefully at least twice.
4. This passage is the 7th time in John that Jesus uses an "I am" metaphor to describe himself. Look up each of them. What is Jesus saying about himself with each metaphor? How do all these statements harken back to Exodus 3:14?
 - a) John 6:35, 48, 51
 - b) John 8:12, 9:5
 - c) John 10:7, 9
 - d) John 10:11, 14
 - e) John 11:25
 - f) John 14:6
 - g) John 15:1
5. The metaphor of a vineyard is a common one in the Old Testament. Read Isaiah 5:1-7 (see Jer. 2:21, 12:10; Ps 80; Eze 15:2-6; Hosea 10:1). What do the vines in these OT passages represent? What did God expect from His vineyard and what did He get from His vineyard? (also see Luke 13:6) How is Jesus, the true vine, a fulfillment of God's plan?
6. What is the contrast between the two types of branches in verse 2? Why must branches be in the vine in order to bear fruit? (See verse 4) What is done with unfruitful branches? (See verse 5-6) What is done with fruitful branches? (Verse 2) How does God prune a believer's life? (See Heb 12:3-11) Have you experienced godly pruning?

7. Count how many times the word “abide” appears in these verses. What does the word “abide” mean? What does it convey about endurance and persistence? What does abiding in Christ look like in a genuine believer’s life? Do you consider yourself abiding in Christ in your life? If not, what needs to change?

8. In verse 10, how does Jesus tie abiding in Him with obedience to His commandments? What commandment does Jesus want us to obey? (Verse 12, also see John 13:34). How does abiding in Him give us the capacity to obey this commandment? (See Romans 5:5, cf. Gal 5:22) Why is love for each other such a powerful apologetic to the world? (John 13:35) Describe the love you have for fellow believers.

9. When Jesus spoke the words in verse 13, His death was a few hours away. Why are these words so important to understand in relation to His death? (Romans 5:6-8; 1 John 4:10-11). If Jesus laid down His life for us, what are the practical implications for us? (1 John 3:16-18)

10. Who is the ultimate factor in Jesus’ disciples bearing fruit according to verse 16? (cf. Verse 19) What action verb does Jesus associate with bearing fruit in verse 19? (Hint: same as Matthew 28:19) What kind of fruit results when we go and proclaim good news about Jesus? What does Jesus want the resulting fruit to do? (See verse 16) How are you involved in bearing fruit and making disciples?

PRAY IN THE GROUP

- Cornerstone’s annual Vacation Bible School will be happening soon, June 11-15. Pray that this ministry will reach families in the community with the gospel. Pray for the hearts of the children who will attend, beyond the fun and excitement that their eyes may be opened to gospel truth. Pray for the workers that they may serve with joy and zeal for the Lord.