

GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Get Into The Word



Week of Sunday, October 5, 2025

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Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

Introduction

In John 15:1-6, Jesus emphasizes the importance of abiding in Him, identifying Himself as the true vine and urging believers to stay connected to Him for a fruitful life. Our daily lives are often consumed by distractions and misplaced connections, leaving little room for a meaningful relationship with Christ. This discussion focuses on recognizing and detaching from these distractions, allowing us to truly abide in Jesus. Let's explore how we can make conscious decisions to draw closer to Him, embrace pruning, and prioritize our spiritual growth over worldly connections.

Disciple Measure

Spirit-led Follower: How would you describe your connectedness with Jesus?

This image shows a full page of dot grid paper. The background is white, and it is covered with a uniform grid of small, dark grey dots. The dots are arranged in straight horizontal and vertical rows, creating a pattern of small squares across the entire surface. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

HIGHLIGHT

John 15:1-6

Discuss the following questions...

Opening Question: How do analogies help us understand information in a new way?

1. How does the analogy of Jesus as the true vine and the Father as the gardener illustrate the relationship between believers and God?
2. What does it practically mean for a believer to abide in Jesus, and how does this affect their spiritual life?
3. How does the concept of bearing fruit relate to the idea of spiritual growth?

Have someone read aloud **John 15:2**

4. How would you describe the process of pruning in a believer's life, and why is it necessary for spiritual growth?
5. How does the process of pruning help Christians bear more fruit in their lives?

Notes:

Discuss the following questions...

1. In what ways can pruning be applied to your life, and how can you remain open to God's guidance in removing obstacles to your spiritual growth?
2. Think of a time when you felt spiritually stagnant or dormant. What changes could you implement now to help you become more fruitful in your faith journey?
3. Reflect on distractions that might be pulling your focus away from Jesus. What actions could you take to minimize these distractions and create more space for abiding in Him?
4. How can you encourage and support someone who might feel disconnected from their faith, helping them to see the opportunity to be lifted up rather than removed?

Force for Good: What practical actions can you take to invest in others spiritually and encourage them to be open to pruning so they can bear more fruit in their lives?

Close by praying for each other, asking God to help each member abide more fully in Christ and to produce fruit that glorifies Him.

Questions for Families

Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.

John 15:1-6

What do you think it means when Jesus says He is the vine and we are the branches?

With younger children, use simple analogies like a branch and leaf on a tree. For older kids, discuss how our connection to Jesus helps us grow spiritually.

How can we show that we are connected to Jesus in our everyday lives?

For younger kids, discuss simple actions like sharing or saying prayers. With older children, discuss daily habits like reading Scripture and how these actions can show their relationship with Jesus.

Why do you think God needs to “prune” us sometimes, and how might that help us?

Explain that pruning means God helps us grow by removing things that aren't good for us, like bad habits. For younger children, talk about the difference between things that are good for us and things that are not. With older children, delve into the idea that God guides us through challenges to make us stronger and better aligned with His plans.

NT 260

WEEK: 41

- John 20
- John 21
- 1 John 1
- 1 John 2
- 1 John 3

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 7:5-6

Resources

Resources to Listen to

BEMA Discipleship Podcast: John – The Pruning Work of Persecution



Marty Solomon takes a look at [John 15](#) and the idea pruning.
(48 min)

Resources to Watch

Bible Project Guide - The Book of John



See a collection of videos and articles to guide you through the book of [John](#).
(20 min)

Bible Project Guide - Tree of Life



The Bible Project looks at garden and tree imagery through out scripture including [John 15](#).
(5 min)

Life Group Resources

We have a variety of resources and are continually adding new ones. Some of our resources include group launch guides, on-demand training modules, and curriculum resources. To request a resource, reach out to us at groups@longhollow.com.



longhollow.com/lifegroups



longhollow.com/dgroups

D-Group Resources

If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.

Commentary

Notes:

What's Going On?

In John 15:1-6, Jesus uses the imagery of a vine and branches to teach His disciples about staying close to Him. John's Gospel is known for its unique style, using symbolic language to explain who Jesus is and what He means for the world. Right before this part in chapter 15, Jesus and His disciples share a meal together; this is the Last Supper, the night before Jesus is crucified. Jesus gives His final teachings to His disciples during this time.

The vine and branches analogy is a way for Jesus to impress upon His followers the importance of maintaining their relationship with Him, even when He is no longer physically with them. This conversation is not just about staying close to Jesus but also about living fruitful lives—showing love, kindness, and helping others, which means producing "fruit" for God's kingdom. The analogy helps the disciples understand that without being connected to Jesus, they won't be able to thrive in their spiritual lives.

Biblical Timeline



Notes:

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A 10x10 grid of dots for graphing. The grid consists of 10 rows and 10 columns of small black dots, providing a coordinate plane for plotting the graph of the function $y = \frac{1}{2}x^2$.



Sermon Notes

John 15:1-6 CSB

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

(Get digital notes on your mobile device at notes.longhollow.com)

Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

Spirit-Led Follower

A disciple who walks with Jesus daily, anchoring their lives to God's Word and obediently following the Holy Spirit where He leads.

Intentional Friend

A disciple who is always looking for ways to care for others and meet their needs. This is a practical way to be present in the lives of those around us.

Humble Guide

A disciple who is a humble guide takes every opportunity to help people take their next step closer to Jesus. This is someone who is constantly looking for opportunities to have Gospel conversations and speak truth into someone's life.

Force For Good

When a disciple lives out their God-given calling, they naturally become a force for good where they live, work, and play. This type of person is looking for opportunities to meet needs, heal brokenness, and bring tangible hope to the people in their life and in their community.



LONG HOLLOW
CHURCH