

## Life on the Vine – Marks of a Growing Disciple

“Habits of Highly Productive Disciples”

John 15:5-8

### OPEN WITH PRAYER

**GETTING STARTED:** Have you ever had a vine or fruit tree that produced amazing amounts of fruit? What was it like? Did you do anything to help it become productive?

### LEARNING & APPLYING GOD’S WORD

**Together, read** John 15:5-8

1. Read Jeremiah 17:7-8. What are the marks of a tree that produces fruit? How does that relate to the life of faith?
2. In the Old Testament, the vine is often a symbol for the *people* of Israel. See Psalm 80:14-18 or Isaiah 5:1-7. What is the significance then of Jesus using this image for himself?
2. Jesus talks about three major concepts: remaining, pruning, and producing—what do each of those mean in this passage?
3. An additional exercise: Read the passage a second time with your RLG or small group listening for a word or phrase that stands out to them. Discuss those phrases with each other. What did you hear God say to you?

## **LIVING OUT “REAL LIFE”**

1. One way to understand pruning is individually, where God takes something in our life and cuts it off so that we might grow: Share places in your life where God is “pruning” you or has pruned you in the past. How does that feel? What hope does that bring to your life?
2. How will you practice “abiding” in God this week? Are there ways the RLG or small group can support you?
3. What fruit do you see in each others’ lives? (See as, one definition of fruit, Galatians 5:22-23.) Spend some time affirming these signs of “productive discipleship” in each other.

## **SHARING AND PRAYER (Prayer Requests)**

Take some time to share prayer requests, where you need to find God’s grace and peace. Be sure to give thanks for each other and pray for one another’s needs. When we pray together, we find the power of God.

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