

Discussion Questions

March 6, 2022



God with Us: Our Lives Empowered by His Presence

1. Read John 15:1-9

How many times does God use the word "abide?"

Summarize what Jesus says about abiding.

What does this passage say about Pruning? Summarize in your own words.

2. What does Abiding in Christ look like for believers today?

3. What is a way you recognize God has pruned you in your life that has led to greater fruitfulness?

Was it difficult or painful? Was it worth it?

4. Read Galatians 5:22-23

How does this fruit relate to what Jesus is saying in John 15?

If you are comfortable, share how you have seen growth in bearing healthier fruit.

Do you find your life lacking in any area of the Spirit's fruit and what kind of pruning might be beneficial to see greater growth?

5. What practical step can you take to abide more fully in Jesus this week?



John 15:1-9

I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love

John 15:30-31

I don't have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. He has no power over me, but I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father. Come, let's be going."

Isaiah 5:1-7

Now I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a rich and fertile hill. He plowed the land, cleared its stones, and planted it with the best vines. In the middle he built a watchtower and carved a winepress in the nearby rocks. Then he waited for a harvest of sweet grapes, but the grapes that grew were bitter. Now, you people of Jerusalem and Judah, you judge between me and my vineyard. What more could I have done for my vineyard that I have not already done? When I expected sweet grapes, why did my vineyard give me bitter grapes? Now let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will tear down its hedges and let it be destroyed... I will make it a wild place where the vines are not pruned and the ground is not hoed, a place overgrown with briars and thorns... The nation of Israel is the vineyard of the LORD of Heaven's Armies. The people of Judah are his pleasant garden. He expected a crop of justice, but instead he found oppression. He expected to find righteousness, but instead he heard cries of violence.

C.S Lewis - The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

"You will have to let me undress you." I was afraid of his claws I can tell you, but I was pretty nearly desperate, so I just lay flat on my back and let him do it. The very first tear he made was so deep that I thought it had gone right to my heart and when he began pulling the skin off it hurt worse than anything I had ever felt. The only thing that made me able to bear it was just the pleasure of feeling the stuff peel off."

Dr Kent Hughes. John: that you may believe

That is how it is with pruning. We would rather do it ourselves, but we cannot, and even if we could, we would not remove what really has to go. The truth is, what is noble and attractive in us has come from the cutting we would have avoided. [King David says] *"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word" (Psalm 119:67). "It was good for me to be afflicted, so that I might learn your decrees" (Psalm 119:71).*