



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Designed for fruitfulness (John 15:1-17)

### GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

What are the hallmarks of a true friendship? How do you (we) maintain a friendship?

### QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

What idea, context, Scripture do you think could have been expanded on, or included in the message?

In what way is John 10:10 related to "fruitfulness"?

How do you interpret Galatians 5:22 in light of the vine and the branches in John 15?

Why is "fruitfulness" an essential element in growing as a Christian?

What does it mean to you that the "Father has to cut in order to cure"? Why ought we as believers welcome that and not fear it? How can we resist it?

What would it mean to you to walk with Jesus not only as Savior and Lord, but also as a friend?

### EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [John 15:1-17]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

How are Jesus and the Father related? (15:1)

How does the gardener tend to the branches that bear fruit and the branches that do not? (15:2)

What did Jesus say the branches must do in order to bear fruit? (15:4)

Who are the branches? (15:5)

What did Jesus say would happen to the branches that did not remain in Him? (15:6)

What privilege was given to the branches that remained in the vine? (15:7)

What would be demonstrated by the disciples' bearing much fruit? (15:8)

What did Jesus urge His disciples to do? (15:9)

How were Jesus' disciples to remain in His love? (15:10)

Why did Jesus talk with His disciples about vines and branches? (15:11)

What command did Jesus give His disciples? (15:12)

What is the greatest manifestation of love? (15:13)

Who did Jesus say were His friends? (15:14)

Why did Jesus call His disciples friends? (15:15)

Why did Jesus choose His disciples? (15:16)

What was Jesus' command? (15:17)

## **QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT**

How are we to remain in Jesus? Why?

What does it mean to bear fruit as a Christian?

When is it difficult to develop and maintain a friendship/relationship with Jesus?

In what way has God been removing "dead" or useless pieces from your character?

In what way is your joy complete?

When do you struggle with loving others the way Jesus has loved you?

## **APPLY THE PASSAGE**

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?