

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

## John 15:1-17

**Ice Breaker:** What is an evidence of God's grace you've seen in your life this week?

**Ice Breaker:** Share a successful or unsuccessful attempt at tending a garden

### DISCUSSION 1: The True Vine (vs.1-7)

1. This passage contains the final "I Am" statement from Jesus in the book of John. What other "I Am" statements are found in John? What does Jesus communicate about himself in this "I Am" statement?
2. If Jesus is the true vine, what is the false vine(s)?
3. What other names does Jesus use in this metaphor? What role do they play in this metaphor?
4. What does Jesus mean when he tells his disciples to abide in Him?

### DISCUSSION 2: The Fruit of the Vine (vs. 8-17)

1. Looking at this passage, what kind of fruit should we expect from a disciple of Jesus who is abiding or staying connected to the true vine? What are signs that may not be staying connected or abiding in Christ?
2. How has the Lord lead you through a season of "pruning" that produced greater fruit in your life? Describe what that season was like and how the Lord brought you through it.
3. What are ways that we need stay connected to Christ, the true vine, both individually and corporately?
4. Describe the difference between obeying to earn God's love and obedience as evidence of love?
5. Jesus says that he taught us these things so that our joy may be full (vs. 11). What are wrong applications of this passage that lead us to rob ourselves of joy Jesus desires for us?
6. How does vs. 16 change the way we think about abiding in Christ and bearing fruit?
7. Since Jesus laid down his life for us, what are some practical ways we can lay down our lives for others? Individually? As a Small Group?

### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What are the ways we connect to Jesus regularly?
2. What kind of fruit are we producing as a family?
3. How did Jesus show his love for us? How can we as a family love others as Jesus has loved us?
4. Pray as a family that God would produce good fruit in us as we stay connected to him.

### Further Study

- **Vine & Vineyard Metaphors & Imagery:** Ps. 80:8-15, Is. 5:1-7, Jer. 17:5-10, Ps. 1, Matt. 20:1-16, Matt. 21:28-46, Luke 13:6-9
- **Fruit:** Matt. 7:15-20; 12:33-34, Luke 6:43-45, Gal. 5:22, Col. 1:22, Romans 7:4-5
- **Resource:** *The Fruitful Life* by Jerry Bridges