

Series Sermon-based Growth Group
John I am thankful
Questions
November 14, 2021

Introductory Discussion:

What from Sunday's sermon did you find most helpful, or eye-opening, or troubling (pick any or all of the above)?

Discussion:

Read John 15:1-11

1. In verse 2, Jesus says, "Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away"? "Takes away" can also mean "lifted up." Jeff mentioned that when a branch is not bearing fruit it is lifted up so that it can get more sun and bear fruit in the future. How might we see that in our lives?
2. What does Jesus mean by "fruit"?
3. How does God "prune" us?
 - a. How does that lead to fruit?
4. The word for "prune" and "clean" are from the same root word in Greek. In verse 3, when He says, "You are already clean (pruned) because of the word that I have spoken to you," what does He mean?
 - a. How does that prepare us to bear fruit?
5. Read verses 4 and 5. How is abiding in Him connected to bearing fruit?
6. Why does Jesus say, "for apart from Me you can do nothing" (verse 5)
 - a. Consider Isaiah 64:6 that says, "all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment." How might those ideas be connected?
7. The Old Testament uses the metaphor of a vine to describe Israel. How does that affect how you look at verse 2, "Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away"? (Consider that Romans 2:28 says, "For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly".)
8. How does abiding in Him guarantee that He will answer our prayers (verse 7)?
9. How can we remain dependent on Him when we seem so capable of taking care of our own problems?

10. Verse 10 says, "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love." What does this tell us about how to abide in Him?

a. How is this not a reward for being good?

11. What is joy and how does everything we've discussed lead to it?