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

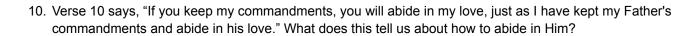
## **Introductory Discussion:**

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?



- a. How is this not a reward for being good?
- 11. What is joy and how does everything we've discussed lead to it?