

JESUS IS

John 15:1-8

Week of March 17, 2024

BELONG

Ask this Ice Breaker Question: Think about a time in your life when you felt most connected to something or someone. What made that connection so strong?

BELIEVE

Have someone in your group read aloud: John 15:1-8.

Ask these questions to prompt group discussion:

- 1. Jesus says He is the vine and we are the branches? What do you suppose is unique about the metaphor of *Vine and Branches* relationship?**

Leader Context:

- *A vine and branch relationship is a biological relationship, where one thing is. Necessary (vine) and the others are contingent (branches).*
- *The vine and branches contain the same essence, the same life. There is one plant, not a two-fold distinction.*
- *The function of the vine is to pump life to the branches and the function of the branch is to produce the fruit of the vine.*

- 2. Much of teaching about pruning associates the process with those who do not bear fruit. Jesus mentions that “pruning” is a regular part of healthy living, regardless of whether you bear fruit or not. What do you make of Jesus teaching on pruning?**

Leader Context:

- *Pruning helps the branches to grow. It does not necessarily produce more or better fruit.*
- *More and better fruit is exclusively a function of the branch’s connection to the vine.*
- *In many respects, pruning is unrelated to fruit growth.*
- *Therefore, we do not have much room as disciples to bring our fruit to Jesus and ask Him to congratulate us. Fruit is a result of our connection to Jesus, not our ability to grow.*



3. Verse 4 emphasizes "abiding" in Jesus. What do you think it means to abide in Christ?

Leader Context:

- *Answers may vary.*

BECOME:

- 4. How do you presently attempt to cultivate a life of abiding in Jesus in your daily life?**
- 5. How can you "abide" in Christ more intentionally to cultivate that growth this week?**