

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

John 15:1-8

For Starting

- Describe your past week in weather terms, e.g. stormy, cloudy, foggy, mostly sunny or... what?
- What is one thing that you are looking forward to?
- What does 'a successful life' mean? Who would be an example of this type of life?

For Reviewing

- Who does Jesus say is the gardener (v.1)?
- What does the gardener do with unfruitful branches and fruitful branches (v.2)?
- How does a branch bear fruit (v.4)?
- On what is fruit-bearing dependent upon (v.5)?
- Where do non-remaining branches end up (v.6)?
- Does v.7 mean that we can pray and ask for anything? If not, what must happen first (v.7a)?
- What is the reason for disciples to bear much fruit (v.8)?

For Discussion

- Read Isaiah 5:1-7. What parallels do you see? Why does Jesus call himself the "true vine" (John 15:1)?
- Jesus speaks about pruning (so that we can be more fruitful). What do you think this pruning involves?
- What do you think is the fruit that Jesus is talking about?
- Why does God expect us to bear fruit? What if we do not want to bear fruit?
- "*Those who bear good fruit are cleansed more and more.*" Do you agree/disagree? Why/why not? How does this impact our lives today?
- What does it mean to you that we have a great, loving God who seeks to nourish us? How do you feel that His "life-force" is flowing from His love to you?
- You could end by reading together John 15:5.

John 15:1-8 (NIVUK)

The Vine and the Branches

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.