

How would you describe 'fruit'? We find other references to 'fruit' in Galatians 5:22-23: Why is it so important to pray for these? Do you think that there is a certain fruit that is more important than others?

Jesus makes a strong emphasis on love and friendship in v.13-15. Why is it important for us to know this?

What privileges does a friend have over a servant (v.15)?

What steps can you take to develop a more intimate relationship with Christ?

Finish by praying for each other. Pray that we would all 'remain in Him'. Pray that we would continue to grow in intimacy, and allow God to prune us in order that we may be more fruitful.



A Light in the Darkness

The Gospel of John

Growth Group Study Guide

Week 8

2 April 2023

“The True Vine”

John 15: 1-17

Series Overview:

In this ten week series, we will look at a Gospel book that is quite different to the other three Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). John wrote this book much later than the other writers, and used a different technique and style. We will reflect on passages and stories that are unique to this Gospel, and seek to capture the passion and desire of the author. John primarily wrote this letter so that the readers would believe in Christ, who he describes as a Light in the Darkness. May the Light of Christ shine into our lives as we spend time in this book, and help us to believe in the One who came to bring life in all of its abundance.

Discuss: What does a true friendship look like? Can you think of some deep and meaningful friendships that you have enjoyed? What were the marks of these relationships?

Read John 15: 1-17

Take a mental picture of this passage. What does this picture look like? Where are you in this picture?

In v.1, Jesus refers to himself as 'the true vine'. That implies that there may be some 'false' vines. What are some "false vines" you have attached yourself to at one time or another?

What is the importance of understanding that God the Father prunes us? Describe a season of life where God has pruned you: What happened? What did you learn? What was the result?

Why do you think that God the Father is described as the Gardener? What is our responsibility in relationship to the Vine and Gardener? What does that look like in our day to day lives?

What did Jesus say the branches must do in order to bear fruit? (v.4)

What privilege was given to the branches that remained in the vine? (v.7) Why do you think that it is not always like that in practice?

What would be demonstrated by the disciples' bearing much fruit? (v.8)

How are we to remain in Jesus? Why?