



I AM

WEEK 8 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CONNECT

- Have you ever grown your own vegetables/fruit? Or, if you lack a green thumb, what about picking your own vegetables/fruit? Share a story,

CONSIDER

- What was encouraging or challenging from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

CHRIST

Read John 15:1-17 (pay attention to the words “remain,” “fruit,” and “love”).

- What phrases/ideas stood out to you while you focused on the words “remain,” “fruit,” and “love”? Why?
- Remaining is all about staying connected to God (the Vine). What are some things that hinder you from staying connected to God?
- While there are things that hinder us, there are also a variety of holy habits that help us stay connected and grow spiritually: going to church, serving/volunteering, communion, life group, daily Bible reading/Bible studies, giving/generosity, fasting, prayer, etc. Which 2 or 3 of these holy habits have been most helpful or impactful in your relationship with God?
- While the above holy habits can lead to fruit, they can also become something where you just go through the motions. Have you ever experienced a season where a holy habit felt more like going through the motions than connection with God? Why do you think this was? How do you counteract this tendency to become spiritually apathetic?
- Fruit is a great analogy for spiritual growth because the fruit of a tree is an important indicator of its overall health. In several places in the Bible, a tree is used as a metaphor for spiritual growth. Read the passages below. What does it take for us to be like flourishing

trees with abundant fruit? Which passage is challenging you to take a next step to deepen your connection with God? Why?

- Psalm 1:1-3
 - Psalm 92:12-15
 - Jeremiah 17:5-8
 - Luke 6:43-45
- While our “fruit” can be a sign of spiritual growth, it could be tempting to think that we are better Christians because of the things we’re doing or not doing. Has there ever been a time in your life where you thought your fruit and good deeds made you more acceptable to God? What helps you keep this temptation in check?
 - Look back over John 15:9-17. Why do you think God would ask us to show love to each other? How does the evidence of God’s love in our lives help deepen our obedience in following Him?
 - Think back to the holy habits from the above discussion questions. Are there any you may want to add, change, or try out in the next few weeks to help you grow in your relationship with God?

CALLING

- Jesus says that He is the Vine and that apart from Him we can do nothing. This might be the greatest spiritual lesson that we have to learn and, in the process, unlearn. Our natural tendency is to control and do things on our own. We often act first and ask God to bless our plans, instead of the other way around. This week, let’s break that routine. Start your day by reminding yourself of your connection to the Vine (prayer, Bible reading, worship, etc.). From there, ask God to produce fruit in your life this week.
- **Daily Devotions:** Spend 15 minutes each day with Northside devotions. Text DEVO to 81212 or use the Study tab in Northside’s mobile app for daily devotions.
- **Memorize:**
“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”
John 15:5 (NIV)
- **Further Study**
 - *The Life You’ve Always Wanted* by John Ortberg
 - *Walking As Jesus Walked* by Dann Spader
 - *Sit, Walk, Stand* by Watchman Nee