

Small Group Questions | Remain | John 15:1-17



Last week we finished John 14 and talked about evidence of our love for God. This week we remain in the Upper Room discourse from Jesus to His disciples. In today's passage Jesus gives us another "I am" statement. He says, "I am the true vine." Most of us don't think of Jesus as a vine, but the point of the illustration is that we need to be connected to the vine. To an agrarian culture this metaphor would have made sense. Many of us today can relate to this metaphor because of the agriculture around us. As we discuss this passage we'll talk about remaining in Jesus and what pruning looks like in our lives.

1. The 30-day minimalism game was invented by Ryan Nicodemus and Joshua Fields Millburn. They developed this game as a great way to jump-start the decluttering journey. Do you have parts of your house or life you'd like to declutter?
2. In John 15:1 we read another "I am" statement from Jesus. This is the last "I am" statement Jesus makes. **Read John 6:35, 8:12, 10:7, 11:25, and 14:6.** What do you learn about the character and nature of Jesus from these different statements?
3. Jesus says that God prunes away the parts of our life that do not bear fruit so we can be more fruitful for the Kingdom. **Read John 15:1-4.** What are some areas of your life you'd like Jesus to prune away so you can be more fruitful?
4. **Read John 15:5-8.** The passage is repetitive about remaining in Jesus. Our culture isn't great at being patient and sticking things out. Sometimes we just want to give up or quit. What have you learned about the value of not quitting but remaining?
5. Jesus says that we can ask for whatever we want, and it will be done for us. **See John 15:7-8.** Is Jesus giving us permission to ask for anything or is His statement a truth for those who are genuinely seeking to build the Kingdom? Could this statement be more about ministry than personal gain?
6. Jesus teaches us that an outcome of remaining in Him is that we bear fruit. What does it look like for a Christian to bear fruit? Can you think of places in your life where you're bearing fruit and places in your life that are fruitless?
7. In John 13-15 we've seen a repetition of the theme of love. **Read John 13:34-35, 14:15, 23-24, and 15:13-17.** Take some time as a group to read these verses and discuss what it looks like to be a community of people who love others well.
8. Close your time in prayer. Pray for God to prune what needs to be pruned in your life that you can be even more fruitful.