

Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Vineyard of Victory” John 15:1-7 April 29/30

Getting Started

The abundant life of a believer is found in the vineyard between the upper room of the Lord’s last supper and the garden of Gethsemane. Learning the “Secret of the Vine” will allow you to live in the power of the Empty Tomb.

What has God been talking to you about lately? Where is He tugging on your heart?

Going Deeper

1. The Explanation of the Facts: (vs. 1-2)

- The Vine: Trunk of the Plant
- The Vinedresser: Tends the Plant
- The Branch: Tethered to the Plant
- The Fruit: Treasure of the Plant

Ø Evidence of Salvation: Matthew 7:20

Ø Expression of Salvation: Galatians 5:22-23

In this passage, Jesus uses the imagery of a grape vineyard to show that the Christian life is not based on our performance, but on our resting and relying on Him to live in us and produce His fruit in our lives. As you read Galatians 5:22-23, you will see what our lives should look like if we are letting Jesus be the source of our spirituality. Which of these 9 character qualities is most evident in your life right now, and which one do you need to ask Jesus to produce in you?

2. The Examination of the Fruit:

- Basket #1: No Fruit: Stagnant (vs. 2)
- Basket #2: Fruit: Stifled (vs. 2)
- Basket #3: More Fruit: Smothered (vs. 2)
- Basket #4: Much Fruit: Sweet (vs. 5)

Read verses 2 and 5. If Jesus were to examine your fruit basket (your life), which of these four kinds of fruit would He find today and why?

3. The Enrichment of our Faith: (vs. 2)

A. The Vinedresser Lifts: “Takes away” is the Greek word “airo” meaning to “lift or clean” versus “dispose or sever”.

Grape vines don't produce well when they are on the ground, so the Vinedresser lovingly lifts them up and puts them back on the fence so they can be in the light of the sun. Do you see God's loving intervention in your life when He doesn't allow you to live 'on the ground or in the gutter' but instead wants to bring you up into the light of His Son?

Degrees of Discipline: **Read** Hebrews 12:5-11

- Rebuke: Verbal Warning
- Chasten: Emotional Discontent
- Scourge: Physical Intervention

If you will, share with us about a time you were not bearing fruit because of selfish choices you were making, and describe which of these 3 degrees of discipline God used to bring you back into the light of the Son.

B. The Vinedresser Prunes: In order to bear much fruit two forms of pruning must take place to make room:

- External: Interests - Commitments, Activities, & Priorities.
- Internal: Identity - Worth, Value, & Significance.

Read Ephesians 1:-7. What do these verses teach you about your identity? Who do you belong to and what has He done for you?

Read Philippians 4:8. How would knowing and repeating this verse help you decide which external interests to invest your time in?

4. The Encouragement for Flourishing: (vs. 5)

- Basket #1: Repent: Choose to obey the Conviction.
- Basket #2: Reorganize: Seek First the Kingdom.
- Basket #3: Release: Let go, Let God.
- Basket #4: Rest: Not doing more for Jesus, but choosing to be more with Jesus.

When Jesus says, “Apart from Me, you can do nothing,” He means that we can’t do anything spiritual, supernatural, significant, or eternal unless we are letting Jesus live in and through us. He must be the source of our life. We’re not trying to be a better Christian. We’re saying, “Jesus, live your life in and through me.”

What changes would you see in your life if you constantly surrendered your life to Jesus like this?

Group Prayer Requests

Pray for the men of our church who are attending Mancation (May 5-7) that they will be spiritually challenged and blessed.