

# missional community

## guide

# The Way of Jesus

JOHN 15:1-6

Use this guide to help structure your time together. All of these parts are equally valuable for the health and growth of a Missional Community. The examples given below are meant to be a starting point for your time together.

## Fellowship

**Take time to fellowship with each other.**

- How did you learn from or be counseled by the Holy Spirit?
- How did you lead someone to rely on the Holy Spirit?

## Prayer

**Take time to pray together as a Missional Community incorporating the passage into your corporate prayer.**

**Adore God for who He is:**

- He is the One who gives growth and sustains all
- He is active in this world

**Confess the ways that you have not been faithful to God:**

- When you try to do things in your own strength, not through Jesus
- When you turn to yourself or the world for life instead of Jesus

**Thank God for what He has done:**

- He has grafted you into Jesus
- He has pruned you so you can bear more fruit

**Supplication - Pray for those in your MC and outside of your MC:**

- Kingdom: For all disciples to willingly be pruned by God so that we can bear much fruit
- Others: To recognize that life is only found in Jesus
- Self: To live out of our life in Jesus

# Passage

**Process through the passage together.**

## **What does the text say?**

Before you jump into discussion, make sure that everyone has a good understanding of the passage. Read the passage again and then work together to retell the passage without reading it.

## **Background info about the author, audience, style, etc. that may be of help.**

- The Allegory of the vine and the branches is the heart of the Upper Room Discourse. Jesus is preparing the disciples to understand that they can still be with Him, even if He is not with them physically.
- This is the last of the “I am” statements in John. The others are: “the bread of life” (6:35, 48, 51), “the light of the world” (8:12; 9:5), “the door of the sheep” (10:7,9), “the good shepherd” (10:11,14), “the resurrection and the life” (11:25), and “the way, the truth, and the life” (14:6).
- The image of the vine and vinedresser is one that would have been familiar to the original audience. Grafting branches in and out of vines and pruning those branches is a practice that is still done today to increase fruit production.
- Bearing fruit is a broad idea. Impacting others for the kingdom is definitely bearing fruit. Personal transformation, being conformed into the image of Jesus, is also fruit in the Kingdom (Galatians 5:22-24).
- Branches being thrown away and into the fire is referring to eternal judgment. These are branches (people) that appeared to be fully grafted into the vine, but their lack of fruit shows that to be false. This is similar to the parable of the sower in Matthew 13 and Luke 8.

## **What do we learn about God from this text?**

Have members input what the Holy Spirit has revealed to them about who God is from this text.

- God is actively at work in the lives of His disciples.
- God is the source of true life and growth, fruitfulness.

## **What do we learn about man from this text?**

Have members input what the Holy Spirit has revealed to them about who man is from this text.

- Man is fully dependent on God.
- Disciples experience pruning, sometimes painful pruning, in order to be more fruitful.

## **What is there that we can obey from this text?**

- Abide in Jesus

## **Are there commands that still apply to disciples today? If so, what?**

- Yes!

## **Other passages in Scripture with similar themes or principles:**

These are passages that could be helpful to draw from for further informing today's text.

- Isaiah 5:1-7; 27:2-6
- Colossians 2:6-15
- Psalm 1
- Jeremiah 17:5-13



# Application

**Now that a good understanding of who God is and how He relates to man has been established from this passage, how does this impact our lives? What are specific things that each member needs to apply in their life this week?**

**What applications directly from the passage can be applied this week?**

- Make time to sit and be with Jesus. Read His Word, sit silently to give space to hear from Him, praise Him for who He is.
- Pay attention to where the Father might be pruning you. Willingly submit to that pruning.

**There may be things that the Holy Spirit is leading us to obey that are not directly from the text, share those as well.**

- Share with a neighbor about the True Vine.
- Have a time of focused prayer with your household for your community.

**Be sure to take time to discuss how you can support and encourage each other in the things God is calling you to apply throughout the week.**

- Ask the question: “How can we help you with that?”

# Mission

**Discuss how you will work together this week to impact the world around you.**

- Discuss what it looks like for you as an MC to invite others into an abiding relationship with Jesus. What steps do you need to take this week to begin inviting people into that relationship?

**VISION:** to engage 2000 new unchurched neighbor households by 2028.

**MISSION:** We exist to glorify Christ by making disciples of all nations who worship, cultivate biblical community, live a generous life, and multiply disciples.

**VALUES:** Spirit Led / Pursuit of Unity / Kingdom Over Self / Adaptability

