



## **PARTICIPANTS GUIDE – October 20**

### ***PRIMARY PASSAGE***

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#### **John 15:1-12: I AM The True Vine**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> “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. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

**WHAT IS GOING ON?**

**1.) When did this passage take place? What events surround this passage?**

**WHAT DOES JESUS CLAIM?**

**2.) Read vv.1-12. With this imagery, Jesus labels himself, the Father, and the disciples. What are each of our roles and what does it mean?**

**3.) In verse 2, we see that the Father cuts off and prunes certain branches. What is the purpose for God's pruning? How does that relate to our life?**

**4.) What is the command that Jesus' gives to the disciples? What is the promise that follows?**

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?**

**5.) What does it mean to remain in him? What are some of the practical ways that you do this?**

**PERSONAL RESPONSE**

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Jesus' statement, "I am The True Vine," shows us that when we are faithful, Jesus makes us fruitful. As we depend on him (Remain in me), he will empower us (I remain in you) to love others.

- **What is one area in your life that God is currently pruning? How may God be doing this for your good?**
- **What practices do you need to put in place to create space to connect with Christ and foster a posture of dependence?**