

In Hampton Court near London, there is a grapevine which is about 1,000 years old. This grapevine has one root which is at least two feet thick, and some of the branches are 200 feet long. Despite its age the vine produces several tons of grapes each year. Although some of the smaller branches are 200 feet from the main stem, they still bear the sweet and delicious fruit because they are connected to the vine. Life flows from that single root and through out the vine bringing nourishment and strength to each of the branches. There is a vine older and greater than the one in London. Jesus Christ has been the true vine for over 2000 years. John 15 out defines what being a disciple is.

There are 3 Kingdom priorities for disciples to own. Number 1 - Verses 1-8; Number 2 - Verses 9-17; Number 3 - Verses 18-27. The 3 priorities coincide with the idea of the seasons of discipline, pruning, and abiding.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.² 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.³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.⁴ 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.⁵ “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.⁶ 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.⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the

1. How would you describe your faith right now? (More than one response is fine) On hold, moving without much feeling, being pruned, painful and hopeful, filled with life and joy, other.

2. What does the mention of cutting/discipline make you feel like when it comes to growth in your faith?

“If our lives consistently bear no fruit, the Lord will intervene to discipline us”

3. What do you think it means in everyday living to remain (abide) as a Christ follower?

4. What point could you come up with that summarizes the first kingdom priority for disciples in verses 1-8? Our commitment to _____

5. Share about a time where you learned to love someone you didn’t like. What did you learn about yourself?

“If God’s discipline is about sin at the 1st level, the pruning at this 2nd level is about self.”

6. How does Jesus conditional statement make you feel in verse 14?

<p>Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.</p>	<p>7. How does fruit-bearing and prayer work together? (v 16)</p>
<p>¹⁸“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’</p> <p>²⁶“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.</p>	<p>8. What point could you come up with that summarizes the 2nd kingdom priority for disciples in verses 9-17? Our commitment to _____</p> <p>9. How does the idea of fruit bearing and persecution work?</p> <p>10. How do Jesus words help us better deal with people’s rejection of us?</p> <div data-bbox="898 999 1378 1100" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><i>If your life bears a lot of fruit, God will invite you to abide more deeply with Him.</i></p> </div> <p>11. How does the Spirit help us to share the good news? (v 26) Share some life examples.</p> <p>12. What point could you come up with that summarizes the 3rd kingdom priority for disciples in verses 18-27? Our commitment to _____</p> <p>13. What are your takeaways from this study?</p> <p>14. Do you feel connected or disconnected from the vine? Jesus invites us to become more deeply connected.</p> <p>Pray together</p>