

Use the following growth group discussion questions to deepen your relationship with God, his Word and others.

TO TRULY FOLLOW AFTER

7/12 in the series Just Between Us
July 23, 2017 • Pastor Robb Williams • *John 15:1-8*

BREAK IT OUT:

1. Jesus tells us He is the vine, God is the gardener, and we are the branches. What do you believe Jesus is telling us with this illustration?
2. What got your attention or surprised you in Sunday's sermon?

TALK IT OUT:

3. What is the significance of Jesus' referring to His followers as branches?
4. Is it possible to bear spiritual fruit without God's help? Explain your answer.
5. Jesus says apart from Him we can do nothing. How would we answer someone who tells us his or her list of accomplishments?
6. Jesus talked about trimming a branch so it can become fruitful. This can be a painful process. How does God trim unfruitful branches from our lives? How can we help each other in the process?
7. What advice would you give someone (according to this passage) who was not producing much fruit?

WORK IT OUT:

8. Read the nine qualities listed as the fruit of the Spirit in *Galatians 5:22-23*. Which quality do you need most in your life right now?
9. How could this quality be developed in your life?
10. How can your growth group pray for you this week?

Today we are looking at the longest most intimate conversation between Jesus and his closest followers, and we find ourselves in the midst of some heightened tension. Jesus spoke of his expectations to a few followers and even revealed some signs that they were actually part of the team. Just as sleeping in a garage doesn't make us a car, going to church doesn't make us a true follower. Let's sort all this out in *John 15:1-8*.

1. **To bear fruit or to not bear fruit, that is the question** - (*John 15:1-2*). What an allegory! Bearing fruit is a tell-tale sign of following Jesus.
2. **AIC + WAIU = BF** - (*John 15:3-5*). Abiding in Christ, plus his words abiding in us, equals bearing fruit.
3. **The results of bearing fruit are amazing** - (*John 15:6-8*). We will bring glory to God, have answered prayer and more generally "bear fruit."

Conclusion

Reminiscent of *John 15*, the angels at Christ's ascension said, "Don't just stand there, bear fruit," (*Acts 1:10*).

NEXT WEEK 8/12 • JUST BETWEEN US
STAY THE COURSE • **1 CORINTHIANS 3:4-7; 15:1-5**