

## Groups Discussion Guide

# The True Vine

Jesus doesn't ask us to try harder. He invites us to stay connected to Him, the true vine, because apart from Him we can do nothing.

*John 15:1–6 · October 25, 2026*

### Start here

Do you have a green thumb, or do plants tend to struggle at your house? Share a gardening win (or disaster)!

### Read the scripture

Read John 15:1–6 out loud together before you start.

### What does it say?

1. In John 15:1–2, who is the vine, who is the vinedresser, and what does the vinedresser do with the branches that bear fruit?
2. According to John 15:4–5, what happens to a branch that abides in the vine, and what happens to one that doesn't?

### What does it mean?

3. Pastor Jay described a familiar cycle: we fall short, guilt settles in, we tell ourselves “I just got to try harder,” and then we fail again. Why doesn't trying harder produce fruit, according to John 15:5?
4. John 15:2 says the Father prunes the branches that are bearing fruit. Pastor Jay said, “Pruning is not a punishment. It is uncomfortable.” How might that change the way you look at a hard season you're in or have been through?
5. Jesus told His disciples, “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you” (John 15:3), before they had borne any fruit. What does that tell us about where fruit comes from?

### What do we do with it?

6. No amount of shaking, squeezing, or talking to the lamp could make it light until it was connected to the source. What “other vines” (a title, success, money, affection, approval) are you most tempted to draw life from?
7. To abide means to stay, to remain, to make your home. Like Martha, we can be busy and distracted even while loving Jesus. What most often pulls you away from simply sitting with Him, and what helps you stay in the Word?
8. “Connected beats trying harder — always.” What is one practical way you want to stay connected to Jesus this week instead of trying to do it on your own?

**Pray**

Lord Jesus, You are the true vine, and without You we can do nothing. Help us stop striving and simply abide in You, staying connected so that we bear the fruit You have prepared for us. Amen.