

SEPT 11 & 12, 2021 | JIM NICODEM
A TOUR OF GOD'S VINEYARD

JOHN 15:1-6

Introduction

1. The Jesus - _____.

2. The Father - _____.

- _____ fruitful branches

- _____ dead branches

3. The Follower - _____.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. Describe three roles that you play in life, beginning each description with the words "I am a..." (e.g., "I am a mom; Uber driver; gardener; realtor; tennis player; dog owner; Cubs fan; musician; dentist; etc.) What do you like about each of the three roles?
2. Read John 15:1-6. What role does Jesus describe in this passage for himself? For the Father? For his followers? Why do you think Jesus uses the analogy of a vineyard?
3. Why does Jesus use the word *true* when describing himself as the true Vine in v.1? (Hint: Read Isaiah 5:1-7.)
4. I am the true Vine is the 7th and final I AM statement that Jesus makes in John's Gospel. What are the other six? (Use your NIV Study Bible or Google.) What is the overall significance of these I AM references? (Hint: See Exodus 3:13, 14.)
5. Why does Jesus refer to himself as a Vine?
6. What two activities does the Father engage in as a Gardener? How does God accomplish pruning in our lives? What's his goal in doing this? How do you feel about being pruned? Read Hebrews 12:7-11 and note the similarities with John 15.
7. What kinds of branches does the Gardener cut off? What happens to them? Why do you think Jesus makes this troubling point?
8. Why does Jesus refer to his followers as branches? What does Jesus mean when he says that apart from him we can do nothing (v.5)? What are some things that you have attempted to do on your own— without Christ's help— and failed at?
9. Jesus spoke these words on the night that he was betrayed and later crucified. Why is this lesson so important for his followers to grasp, originally, and today?