

## The Secret of the Vine John 15:1-11

**Purpose:** To challenge us to not settle for a surface level commitment, but to really go deeper in our relationship with the Lord.

**Group Discussion:** When you were young and your family was somewhere crowded or new; were you a 'Velcro kid' who stayed glued to your parent's side, or did you tend to wander off? What do you remember most about a time you actually got separated?

1. As we look at these verses, Jesus paints a picture of a vineyard with a gardener, a vine, and branches. Why do you think Jesus chose the image of a vine to describe Himself? What does that tell us about our connection to Him?
2. (Verse 4) Why does Jesus emphasize "*remaining (abiding) in Him*" rather than directly commanding us to bear fruit? What does this reveal about how spiritual growth happens?
3. (Verse 4) What does it mean to "remain (or abide)" in Christ?
4. Some see the "fruit" that Jesus mentions, as referring to winning new believers. But branches produce fruit, not more branches. What else might Jesus mean by "fruit" in this passage?
5. (Verse 2) What do you think Jesus is teaching us about the Father's role when He speaks of pruning or cutting off unfruitful branches?  
What kind of things do you think the Father might want to 'clear away' to help you grow closer to Jesus? In what ways have you experienced this 'pruning', and what was the outcome?
6. (Verses 7-11) Jesus paints this picture of staying connected to Him, and then in verses 7-11, He lists some pretty amazing 'side effects' of living that way. As you scan those verses, what are the specific promises or 'spiritual perks' that jump out at you? Which one do you feel like you need most right now?
7. Looking at these verses, it seems like there's a progression: branches with 'no fruit' → 'some fruit' → and eventually 'much fruit'. If you were to take a look at your own life right now, where do you feel like you land? And what makes you say that?
8. If you went to Jesus and said, "Lord, I feel like I'm stuck in the 'no fruit' or 'some fruit' category"; what would His instructions to you be from this text? What is the first step He would want you to take?

**What to pray for:** Ask God to keep molding your heart and life to reflect His purpose for you.