

I AM the Vine

Small Group Questions



*The following questions are intended to start conversations.
Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.*

Our preaching series during the season of Epiphany will pick up stories in John 12-15 (Light in Dark Places). Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories BEFORE you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.

- Read **John 15:1-17**. What stands out for you in this text?
- Jesus used the analogy of the vine and branches to describe our relationship with God. What does this analogy tell us?
- What do gardeners do? What does this reveal about the Father?
- Why are some branches pruned? How have you experienced this?
- Some English translations use the phrase “remain in me.” (NIV, NLT) Others translate the same phrase “abide in me.” (ESV) Which is most helpful to you? Why
- What does it mean to abide or remain in Jesus? Be specific.
- What does it mean to bear fruit? In other words, what is difference does it make if we abide in Jesus?
- Can we bear this kind of fruit if we do not remain in Jesus? Why?
- What does this analogy say about the interconnectedness between love, obedience, and abiding in Christ? See also **John 14:23-24**.
- Jesus said, “Greater love has no one that this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (13) What does this look like in our current social/political context?