

DiVINE LIFE

(John 15:1-11)

Remaining connected to the Vine enables us to fulfill:

- **OUR IDENTITY—who we are** (4-6)

Who we are is defined—in part—by our relationship with Jesus, intended to be intimate and dependent. We cannot grow or bear fruit unless we draw our strength from the true Vine. Without remaining connected we wither.

- **OUR PURPOSE—why we are here** (4, 8)

God desires that we grow—not remain stagnant or wither—and bear fruit. Then can we see others benefit from what he produces in and through us.

- **OUR DESTINY—what we can become** (2-3, 11)

We can experience real joy in life as we grow, even through *growing pains*. But our greatest development comes through pruning. God's primary instrument for pruning is the Word, but we must be *in it* to be pruned *by it*.

- ❑ Are you connected?
- ❑ What kind of fruit is God producing in and through you?
- ❑ Where do you need pruning?

- **OUR RESPONSE**

A six-week commitment: time, place, plan, goal, accountability partner

John 15:1-11

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.