

(John 15:1-17 NIV) “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He 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. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain 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. ⁶ If 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. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This 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. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

✓ Christianity is a _____ of _____.

HOW DOES THE PROCESS PROGRESS:

1. _____
2. _____

Discussion Questions

Starter Questions

What's your favorite fruit? Why?

Group Discussion

After hearing the message what was new to you? What prompted you to re-examine an issue, attitude, or behavior? What inspired you to dig deeper into God's Word?

What are some other vines people look to for growth? How does verse 11 distinguish worldly vines from Godly ones?

In your mind is pruning encouraging, or discouraging? Does this analogy help you understand why difficult things sometimes happen? If you're comfortable, you can share a time you've been “pruned” and what you learned.

Pastor Landon said fruit bearing is good news because you can see your progress. How is that good news?

How does keeping God's commands lead to joy?

In your mind, what does it mean to be a friend of God?
Read verse 15 for reference.

Do you agree that abiding takes discipline, not motivation?
If not, what Scripture can you use to back up your view?

Digging Deeper

Read Hebrews 12:3-11 and answer the following questions:
are discipline and pruning the same thing in your mind? How
does verse 11 describe discipline? What sort of harvest does
discipline lead to? Is that different than the harvest of
pruning?

Reread John 15:17. How can you love to a fellow believer
this week?

Announcements

Answer key: process, progress; abiding; fruit bearing

Our next **NEXT** is coming up in **soon**. If you want to know more
about the church, or become a member, this is the event to
come to! More details to follow.

There are still opportunities for you to invest in our **new building**.
Please contact Pastor Landon for more details.

Thanks to everyone who helped the **Youth Group** raise enough
money for camp!

Please refer to New Anthem Notes for information about a
Men's Retreat May 3-5.

Mother's Day is May 12. There will be a special treat for all
women 18 and over!

Serve Day is May 26. There will NOT be service, as we'll be
serving the community!