

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of December 18, 2016

**This Week's Focus:** Jesus is the true vine who graciously gives joy-filled life to all those who abide in his love.

**This Week's Text:** John 15:1-11

Abiding in Christ means allowing His Word to fill our minds, direct our wills, and transform our affection.

**Sinclair Ferguson**

All of God's disciplinary processes are grounded in His grace, His unmerited and unconditional favor toward us. We tend to equate discipline with rules and performance standards; God equates it with firm but loving care for our souls. **Jerry Bridges**

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- What metaphor does Jesus use in verses 1-11? Who is the vine, the vinedresser (gardener) and the branches? What is the main point of Jesus' parable?
- Who are the branches that wither, die, and are burned in the fire? Discuss why these cannot be considered genuine believers. Reference John 6:37,39 and John 10:27-28.
- What is significant about the fact that Jesus calls himself the "true" vine? Reference Isaiah 5:1-2 and Psalm 80:14-18.
- Discuss what it means to abide in Jesus and bear fruit. Explain how fruit is the evidence of regeneration, not the means of regeneration. What are some practical ways that as God's people we abide in Christ and his love (both personally and corporately)? Is the gospel your motivation for obeying Christ's commandments?
- What is the purpose of pruning and how does God "prune" those he loves? Reference 2 Corinthians 1:8-9 and Hebrews 12:6,10-11. Does this change the way you view and understand difficulties in your life?
- To what degree are we loved by Jesus? Reference verse 9. What is ultimately produced by our humble, God-glorifying obedience to Jesus? Reference verse 11.
- How does this passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?