



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS John 15:1-8

Read John 15:1-8

1. Jesus said *“I am the vine and you are the branches”*. (verse 5) What does that mean? (Check out Hosea 10:1, Jeremiah 2:21, Isaiah 5:1-7, 27:2-6) How does Jesus replace and fulfil Israel’s failings as the vine?
2. Re-read verse 2 What people groups is this verse talking about and what happens to each of them?
3. What are some examples of Jesus pruning his people that they might bear more fruit?
4. *“Abide in me and I in you”* (verse 4), *“Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bear much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing”* (verse 5). What does it mean to *“abide”* in Jesus? How do we abide in Him each day?
5. Have another look over John 15:1-8 and note all the times *“fruit”* is mentioned. What *“fruit”* is this talking about? How can we produce *“fruit that will last”* (John 15:16)? List some ways you as a Growth Group you can be more intentional about producing *“fruit that will last”*.
6. As NCC moves to a new bigger building there are a number of good things we might be tempted to concentrate on at the cost of pursuing the eternal fruit of people being saved by Jesus. List some possible good things that might distract us from the most important thing – seeing lost people saved by Jesus Christ. How can we make sure we stay true as a church to the mission of Jesus to produce eternal fruit through his gospel word?
7. ***Spend time praying for NCC as we move to 154 Balcatta Rd that we would stay focussed on the gospel vision God has given us of seeing Jesus Christ standing with crowds of people from Perth and beyond made alive by His Spirit through His gospel and delighting in Him for all eternity to the glory of God the Father.***

Leaders Notes

1. Jesus is saying “I am the true fruitful vine that the OT people of God were supposed to be”. The church doesn’t replace God’s OT people – Jesus does. He’s saying “I am the ONLY TRUE channel through whom God’s ETERNAL blessings flow to world. I will fill the whole world WITH ETERNAL FRUIT”

Jesus does what Israel couldn’t. He is able to accomplish all that God’s people failed to achieve. They were to be a blessing to the whole world. They were to be a light in the darkness. They were to be God’s treasured possession. They were to be God’s channel – God’s SOURCE OF BLESSING to the whole world. BUT THEY FAILED. And Jesus comes and says “I am God’s channel for eternal blessing to the world – I am the WAY God fills the whole world with fruit that WILL LAST FOREVER.

2. Every branch that does not bear fruit he takes away. This is the Jewish people who don’t accept Jesus as the Christ and grow in Him. Every branch that does bear fruit is everyone who becomes a Christian.
3. Obvious example is the persecuted church. What about closer to home?
4. To “abide” means to “remain” or “be joined to, united to”. It’s like being superglued to Jesus! According to Jesus the way to abide in Him is to abide in His word.
5. Fruit here means people coming to live forever through the powerful gospel of Jesus Christ, to abide in Jesus and continue in Him.
6. Good things can sometimes distract us from the most important things. It doesn’t mean that they’re not good things to do, just that they ought not be the things we do at the cost of the most important things.