

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM
Who Really Cares?
Sermon 21.11.09
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Small Group Study for Week of November 21-27

The Big Idea

Christ is the vine and we are the branches connected to the vine. This relationship must be nourished if it is to survive. God also wants us to bear fruit and so He will prune us so that we can produce fruit.

Group Reads: John 15:1-17

Questions:

1. What are some of the phrases used by Jesus in this passage to describe our relationship with Him? What do those passages tell you about how God feels about us?
2. We are to remain in the vine - how do we do that? What in this passage helps us understand how to stay connected to Jesus?
3. Verse 2 tells us that God prunes those connected to the vine so that they can produce more fruit. How does God prune us? What happens if we don't like the pruning and ask Him to quit? When something we think is bad happens to us, how do the texts on pruning help?
4. There are at least three types of fruit talked about in this passage - character, obedience and witnessing. Where are they referred to and why are they important? Remember that the fruits of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians hadn't been written when Jesus is talking here.
5. Verse 16 talks about all of us being "appointed," the King James Version says "ordained." It is the same word used in 1 Timothy 1:12 about Paul being appointed as an apostle to reach people. What does bearing fruit have to do with being appointed to reach others?
6. What encouragement did you receive from this passage, what challenged you?
7. What are you going to do this week to ensure you remain connected to the vine and bear fruit?

