

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For week of May 30, 2021

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### MY STORY

Have you ever read a self-improvement book or taken a similar course? What effect did it have in your life?

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you, or raised a question?

### DIGGING DEEPER

Jesus calls himself the "true vine" in this passage. How is that significant? What are the implications to us? How does His statement play out in today's culture?

What does being the vinedresser say to you about God's relationship with you?

Would you be willing to share an instance of God's "pruning" in your life? What was the end result?

As Christians, we sometimes focus on "being more loving, or kind, or patient"—working on these things in our lives. In light of this passage, is this a valid approach?

What does "abiding" look like to you? Is it a set regimen or can it vary in believers?

Jay mentioned the blessings of abiding in Christ. Are there any others that you have experienced?

Abiding in Christ impacts our love for God and one another. How would you respond to someone who claims to believe in God but has no interest or involvement in the church?

In there anything you can do to strengthen your abiding in Christ?

### PRAYER REQUEST

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## Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in a Small Group. We've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines:

### **WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME**

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a request is introduced, the group focuses on that request. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

### **PRAY MORE THAN ONCE**

Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray out loud.

### **WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT & SIMPLE**

Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused, and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Missionaries of the Month** Please pray for Chad & Kristin Tabor as they serve with e3partners.

**Baby Bottles for Choices** Don't forget to pick up a baby bottle in the Commons to fill with change to support Choices of Woodland Park.



## **The Gospel of John---That You May Believe**

### ***Abide***

*John 15:1-17 (ESV) Jay Farwell May 30, 2021*

### **I GROWING FRUIT: GOD'S ROLE**

- A true relationship with God **will** produce fruit
- God will prune us to produce more fruit
- Pruning can cause pain but it will result in joy

### **II GROWING FRUIT: MY ROLE**

- Our role is to abide—remain—in Jesus
- Abiding means daily dependence on Jesus
- As we abide in Him, He produces fruit in us

### **III BLESSINGS AS WE ABIDE**

- We will have a rich and vibrant prayer life
- We will bear fruit
- We will experience God's love

### **IV LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

- Our love for God grows as we abide
- Our love for one another grows as we abide