

FLOURISHING IN GRAD SCHOOL
WEEK 2: HOLD ON FOR THE RIDE

JOHN 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He 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. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain 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. ⁶If 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. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Have someone read the passage out loud. Spend five minutes or so reviewing it individually, noting things that stand out and adding comments or questions on your sheet.

Discussion Questions

What imagery does Jesus make use of in this passage?

What vine-growing principles does he make use of?

What is involved in ensuring good and abundant fruit?

How does Jesus identify himself, God, and his followers?

Who is responsible for the fruit in this passage? What produces fruit?

Last week we discussed spiritual growth as described in the parable of the soils. We considered what kind of soil we are and the various challenges that may come threatening fruitfulness. This week we see our Heavenly Father as Gardener. According to this text, what must we do in order to bear fruit?

Jesus says that branches will either be cut off or pruned. Either way, there will be some cutting. How do you respond to this?

What does it mean to “remain”? How do we do this?

What are some concrete ways you can stay connected to the vine this year?

Are there other things from the passage you want to comment on or ask about?

Spend a few minutes filling in the table below. Discuss this final question together and then pray for one another and for this group. How can this group help you stay connected? How can we support one another along the way?

<i>How might this group help you stay connected to the vine?</i>	<i>How can you help the others stay connected? What do you bring to this group?</i>