

Remaining in Christ: Jesus' "I am" statements in the Gospel of John

Session VIII

Questions for Reflection

The True Vine (John 15:1-17)

These questions are deep, and you will need to spend some time reflecting before you answer. We suggest you choose one or two questions each day and work on them throughout the week.

Scribble page provided (next page). Print it out to use it.

1. Which image or phrase in the passage do you think is the most important? Does any part of it trouble you? Is there a part that you feel that you have experienced in your own life?
2. Think about the things that you do in an ordinary week. What opportunities are there for you to "bear fruit" from your discipleship, even in small ways? Is there a harder kind of fruit that you would like to be able to bear, but you haven't yet found the time or courage to do so?
3. In the first paragraph, Jesus says, "You have already been pruned by the word that I have spoken to you." In other words, studying Jesus's words makes us more fruitful. If you have been doing this study all along, have you noticed a difference in your actions that might be like "fruit"? Can you tell a story about a way that you have changed on account of studying the I AM sayings in the Gospel of John? Is there a way that you wish that you would be changed by the study of the scriptures?
4. "Abiding" refers to active practices of staying rooted in Christ. Some are obvious, like prayer, weekly Eucharist, giving generously to the poor. What other sorts of practices do you think this list could include? If you are doing this study with a group, spend some time really brainstorming this question. How many practices can you come up with? How diverse can you imagine them to be? Think of some that are very ordinary and some that require great courage. Is there a new practice that you would like to experiment with?

You might want to close this session by praying this Collect from the Book of Common Prayer (p.233). It contains language related to the passage.

**Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things:
Graft in our hearts the love of your Name;
increase in us true religion;
nourish us with all goodness;
and bring forth in us the fruit of good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

use this space for your thoughts, notes,
scribbles, or drawings as you reflect

