

CAC LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

I AM – The Vine – April 19, 2026

Big Idea: Jesus is the Vine

- Ice Breaker: What's something you tried to grow (plant, habit, hobby) that didn't exactly "bear fruit"?

Key Points

Take a few minutes to review the key points from this week's sermon.

- Jesus is the true source of life
- God prunes what he loves
- The gardener is closest when the pruning happens
- The evidence of real connection to Jesus is fruit
- You cannot produce fruit on your own, it grows naturally when you abide – stay connected – to Jesus
- Abiding is relational not mechanical – it is where you ground your daily existence
- We get access to everything Jesus has, but he also wants access to every part of our lives

Discussion Questions

Based on the sermon, discuss the questions below.

- What was your biggest takeaway? What stuck out the most or moved you on a personal level?
- Did anything bother you? What questions did you have?

Making it Personal

Review with your group the impact this week's sermon made on you personally.

- What's something in your life recently that didn't go the way you planned? How did you respond in that moment?
- Why is the idea of pruning difficult to accept, even if we know it's for growth? Does Pastor Joe's statement "the gardener (God) is closest to the vine when the pruning happens" change your outlook at all?
- Do you tend to be more interested in looking fruitful or being fruitful? How would you describe the difference between the two?
- When you think about the "fruit of the Spirit" (like love, joy, peace, etc.), which one do you feel like you've seen the most of in your life lately? What fruit do others mention that they see?
- What are some of the "false vines" you have attached yourself to? What was the result?
- What are some simple ways you tend to stay connected to God during a normal week (or what has helped you in the past)?

Scripture Review

Revisit some of the scripture passages from this week and discuss the questions below.

- John 15:1-11: In this passage, what are the roles of the vine, the branches, and the gardener? Based on what Jesus says, what seems to be the key to bearing fruit? What happens to those who do not abide in Jesus? What are the benefits of those who do?

Diving Deeper

Use the verses below to dive into other passages of scripture that relate to the primary scripture passage from this week's sermon.

- **Old Testament:** Psalm 34:19, Psalm 80:8-10, Hosea 10:1-2, Isaiah 5:1-2 & 7, Jeremiah 2:21, Isaiah 27:2-3, Amos 9:13-14
- **New Testament:** Galatians 5:22-23, Colossians 2:6-7, Matthew 7:16-20, Romans 11:17, Philippians 1:9-11, Hebrews 12:4-12, 1 Peter 1:6-7, 1 Peter 4:12-13

Application & Action

It is important to take the knowledge you gain and see how it can become an actionable step that the Holy Spirit can use to produce transformation in your life.

As we move from talking about this passage to living it out, take a moment to reflect on where this connects to your real, everyday life. Jesus isn't just explaining a concept—He's inviting us into a relationship. Using the ideas of **pruning, fruit, and abiding**, let's consider what He might be doing in us right now and how we can respond.

- **Prune:** Where in your life does something feel like it's being "cut back" or not going how you planned—and what might God be inviting you to notice or learn in it? Is there anything (a habit, attitude, or priority) that you sense God may be asking you to let go of right now? How can you cling to the Gardener, knowing He loves you and wants what is best for you?
- **Fruit:** Which fruit of the Spirit do you feel God might be wanting to grow in you in this season? What is one small, practical way you can cooperate with God's work in that area this week?
- **Abide:** What is one simple way you can stay more connected to Jesus in your everyday routine this week? Is there any part of your life, a "locked room", you've been hesitant to fully surrender to God? What would it look like to take one step of trust there?

Two-minute Takeaway

In response to this week's message, commit to taking two minutes each day to take a step closer to God.

Spend 2 minutes (or more!) each day fully immersed, connected, and abiding in Jesus and His presence. If you're not sure the best practice to achieve this, experiment with locations, times, etc. Maybe you take a walk, play a worship song, read a favorite Bible verse. Let Him know you seek connection with Him above all else and for His will to be done to grow you.

Prayer

Close your group time together with prayer.