

THE GARDENER AND THE KING



Message Date: October 17, 2021 (Week 4)

CONNECT

Read John 15:1–17. Share what stands out most to you from Jesus' teaching.

DISCUSS

Jesus teaches his disciples that they will bear fruit when connected to him. The experience of gardening offers lessons that shape our expectations and direct our growth.

It's harder than you think. (Matthew 16:24)

- What is the hardest part of discipleship for you?
- Where do you struggle most with self-denial? What is the cross you have to carry?

Growth is mysterious. (John 15:5)

- How has the presence of the Holy Spirit helped you grow?
- Where do you see the need for continued growth in your life?

Consistency is essential. (Proverbs 20:4)

- How are you cultivating your heart for growth each day?
- Where can you add practices that would be like water and nutrients in the garden?

Storms are necessary. (James 1:2–4)

- Can you look back and see how God has grown you because of a storm in life? Share.
- If you are facing a storm right now, tell your group and ask for encouragement.

The roots matter. (Matthew 1:21)

- Identify any weeds growing in your life that need to be rooted out. Share.
- Commit to praying for one another this week, seeking Jesus' help.

PRAY

End your time together by thanking God for his faithfulness in the past and asking for growth where you need it. Thank Jesus for his goodness and promised help.