

# 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 13:21)

- 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.