



WELCOME

T O N O R T H S H O R E

LIFE
GROUPS

WEEK 2 • SEPT 17



NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT: Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER: What's something on your bucket list?

BACKGROUND

John 15 is one of the few chapters that is composed entirely of words ascribed to Jesus. It continues a discourse that Jesus initiated in the upper room in the latter part of chapter 13 throughout chapter 14, which follows the Last Supper when He stated, *"let us go from here"* (John 14:31b). Jesus advanced this discussion during their travel from the upper room across the Valley of Kidron to the Mount of Olives.

The first eight verses of chapter 15 contain an allegory about the vine, branches, and the vinedresser. His followers would have understood the usage of the vine as an allegory for the nation of Israel from their knowledge of the Old Testament: *"You removed a vine from Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground before it, and it took deep root and filled the land"* (Psalm 80: 8-9). However, Israel fell away from God and this deep root was weakened and perverted. This was verified by Jeremiah 2:21, *"Yet I planted you a choice vine, a completely faithful seed. How then have you turned yourself before Me into the degenerate shoots of a foreign vine?"* Jesus declared Himself to be the true vine and His Father is the vinedresser (John 15:1). He went on to illustrate the relationship of Himself with His followers. He emphasized the importance of bearing fruit as a sign of abiding in Jesus, the True Vine.

Moving from this illustration, Jesus changes His focus to His Father's love for His Son and in extension to those who love His Son. Jesus then expands on the concepts and importance of loving others, abiding in Him and following His commandments. In John 15:14, He calls His followers "friends", thereby changing the relationship from teacher and student, to one more personal and inclusive. The disciples were chosen to bear fruit and be a witness to His Kingship and message.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



KEY VERSE: John 15:9

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.”

READ: John 15:1-17



HEAD LEVEL: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

1. What does Jesus mean by describing Himself as “the True Vine” (John 15:1)?
2. How does abiding in Christ lead to knowledge of God?
3. How does abiding in Christ lead to loving God?



HEART LEVEL: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

1. How do we experience union with Christ? Is there a particular feeling, conviction, assurance, or something else?
2. If we lack the joy of the Lord, are we failing to abide in Him?



HANDS LEVEL: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

1. How can we practically live out the commandment to abide in Christ?
2. How can we practically live out the commandment to love one another?



MEMORY VERSE: John 15:15

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)