



## **Connect Group Discussion Guide**

### **Sunday Message - 6/7/20 | Tyler Myers | John 15:1-17**

*NEW Reshapes our Cultural Values: Live Generously*

#### **Key Scriptures:**

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.*

- John 15:1

*Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

- John 15:2

*By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

- John 15:8

*These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

- John 15:11

*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*

- John 15:12-13

*These things I command you, so that you will love one another.*

- John 15:17

#### **Message Notes:**

Cultural Values Overview:

- Be Engaged // rather than passive
- Always Learning // rather than arrogant
- Expect Movement // rather than complacency
- Live Generously // rather than hoarding

Guardrails in Generosity Conversations:

1. Maybe God and Jesus don't want to take away everything they have given you.
2. Generosity is not just about money; it is about giftedness—and how we extend hospitality.
3. Each of us is uniquely gifted with unique personalities.

#### **Message Highlights:**

- There is a plan and a process when Jesus prunes us so that we bear more fruit.
- To *abide* is to remain, to continue on in relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We are created on purpose for a purpose—with gifts, time, energy, and resources for the common good.
- When we live generously, we experience joy and others can see the glory of God.



- You cannot give to the point of being unable to sustain yourself, but you also cannot be unwilling to give anything away. Neither of those extreme approaches demonstrate trust.
- Most people will never have to physically give up their lives for someone else...but this “greater love” is an everyday decision.
- Sacrificial love values people over preferences, lives over lifestyles, and the Source over the stuff.
- When we abide in Jesus, we become his friends, not just his servants.
- Generously loving all people, for all time, is impossible without Jesus and his ability to transform us.
- Being made new in Jesus Christ empowers us to live generously.

#### **Conversation Starter:**

- What is most difficult for you to give away: time, energy, money, or something else? Why?

#### **Discuss the Message:**

1. What does it look like when we trust God with what we have (gifts/abilities, time, energy, and resources)?
2. What are the open doors in your life (things that are easy to give away)?
3. What are the more challenging resources for you to be generous with?
4. What happens when we try to live generously but we are not connected to the source, Jesus? What can we do to abide in him so that we bear real fruit?
5. What happens when we convince ourselves that we have nothing to offer others? What can we do to discover the ways Jesus might gift us to be generous?

#### **Pray:**

- Pray for one another.
- Pray for God to help you live generously, to free you from your ties to “things” that could benefit others and to learn what it means to lay down your life for others.
- Pray for us to grow together in sacrificial generosity.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us to see the needs of others and prompt us to respond with generosity.