

Day 1

John 15:1-17 & Isaiah 5:1-8

The vine in the Old Testament was a metaphor for Israel, the people of God. After reading both of these passages, what implications does Jesus make by referring to himself as “the true vine?” What does this reveal to us about who Jesus believes himself and his followers to be? Why would this have been shocking to a 1st century Jewish listener? In your own words, what does it mean to “abide” in Jesus and “bear much fruit”?

Day 2

Hebrews 4:12-13, 2 Timothy 3:14-17 & John 5:24-40

According to these passages, how does the study of scripture help keep us connected to God? In what ways is this practice supposed to influence the way we live? What role does scripture play in your life right now? How have you benefited from it? How do you struggle with it?

Day 3

Matthew 6:1-15 & James 5:13-16

What insights do you take away from what Jesus teaches us about prayer? Why don't we need to “babble like the pagans”? Do you notice a sort of rhythm or flow to Jesus' prayer? Explain. What does James teach us about the purpose and the gift of prayer? How does prayer keep us connected to God? What sort of role does it play in your own life?

Day 4

Matthew 6:16-18 & Isaiah 58

According to these passages, what is the purpose of fasting? How does it move us closer to the heart of God? Have you ever fasted? If so, what was your experience? If you have never attempted a fast, why not?

Day 5

Psalms 46 & Luke 5:12-16

What are some of the benefits of silence and solitude? Why would Jesus feel the need to “withdraw to lonely places”? Do you find it difficult to “unplug”? Why or why not?

Day 6

Matthew 20:20-28: 25:31-40 & Philippians 2:1-8

How does the discipline of serving keep us connected to the source of radical love? What are some of its benefits? How does Jesus affirm the practice of serving in Matthew 25? What was the mindset of Jesus in the Philippians passage? What do you need to do to align your mindset with that of Jesus?

Day 7

Galatians 5

According to this chapter, what role does the Holy Spirit play in keeping us connected to the source of God's revolutionary love? What does it mean to “keep in step with the Spirit”? How is that accomplished? How does this passage encourage you? How does it challenge you?