



## **I AM the Vine**

- This literally is the classic icebreaker moment. I'm sure we've all been there 'the reluctant party goer' or the awkward wedding reception. Often kicks off with 'So.....who are you?' After the name swapping where do you go next?
- How many of us still describe (if not actually define) ourselves by our positions, roles or interests?
- Is that a problem or quite a natural thing to do?

## **UP - hearing from God and growing...**

Read together aloud (perhaps a few verses each) John 15 remembering these are some of Jesus' final, most precious thoughts.

- What are the three stated identities of the Godhead?
- How does their identity define their activity?
- How does a disciple let these identities shape them?

## **IN - helping a sense of belonging...**

Take time to think through the nature of PRUNING, if it's good weather head for the garden!

- Why do we prune?
- When do we prune?
- Why might we avoid pruning?
- What are the benefits of pruning?

## **OUT - impacting others...**

In your prayer thank God for these clear descriptions and use them to pray for people working in mission roles.

The Pillars, Kim & Dado, the Hollmans, the Hopkins, the Hughes' or others known to your group members.

## **BIBLE READING:**

### **John 15**

*New International Version UK (NIVUK)*

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: love each other.

**LIFEgroup  
Notes**