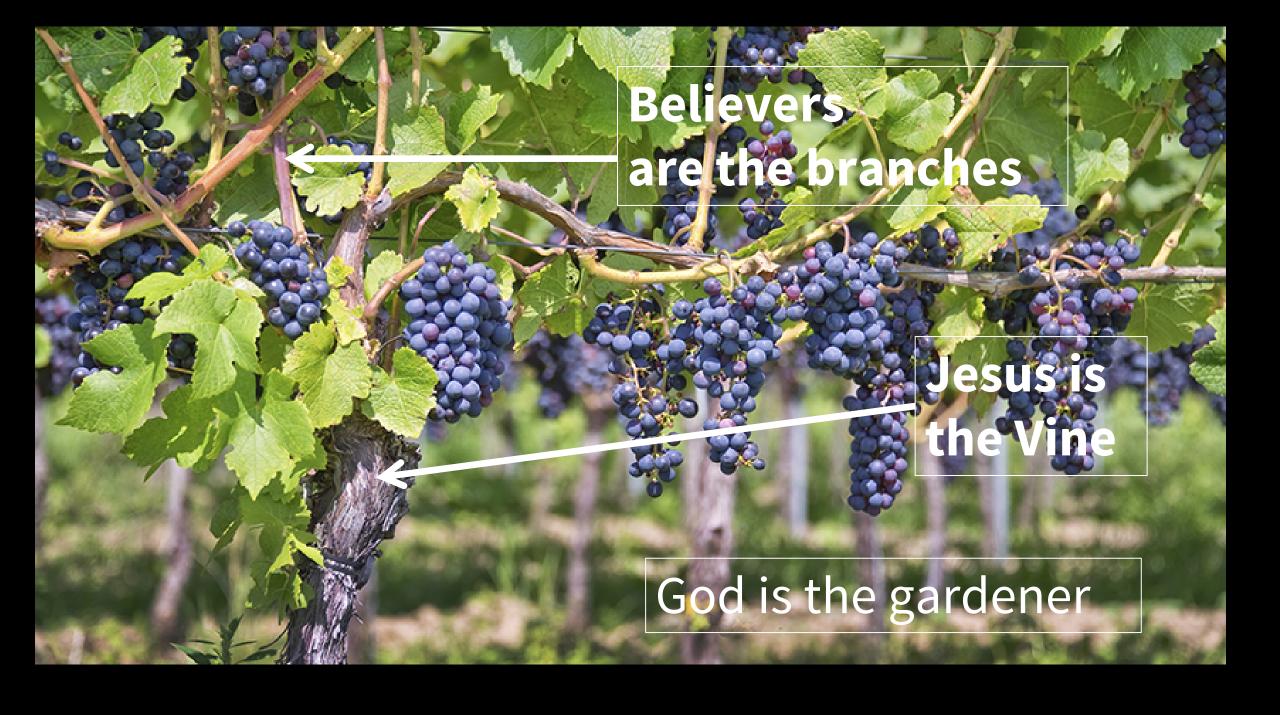
LAUNCH #2 GET READY FOR YOUR FAITH TO TAKE OFF! CONNECTED WE GROW

John 15:1 - 11

WHAT IF GOD HAS A "NEW NORMAL" FOR YOU!

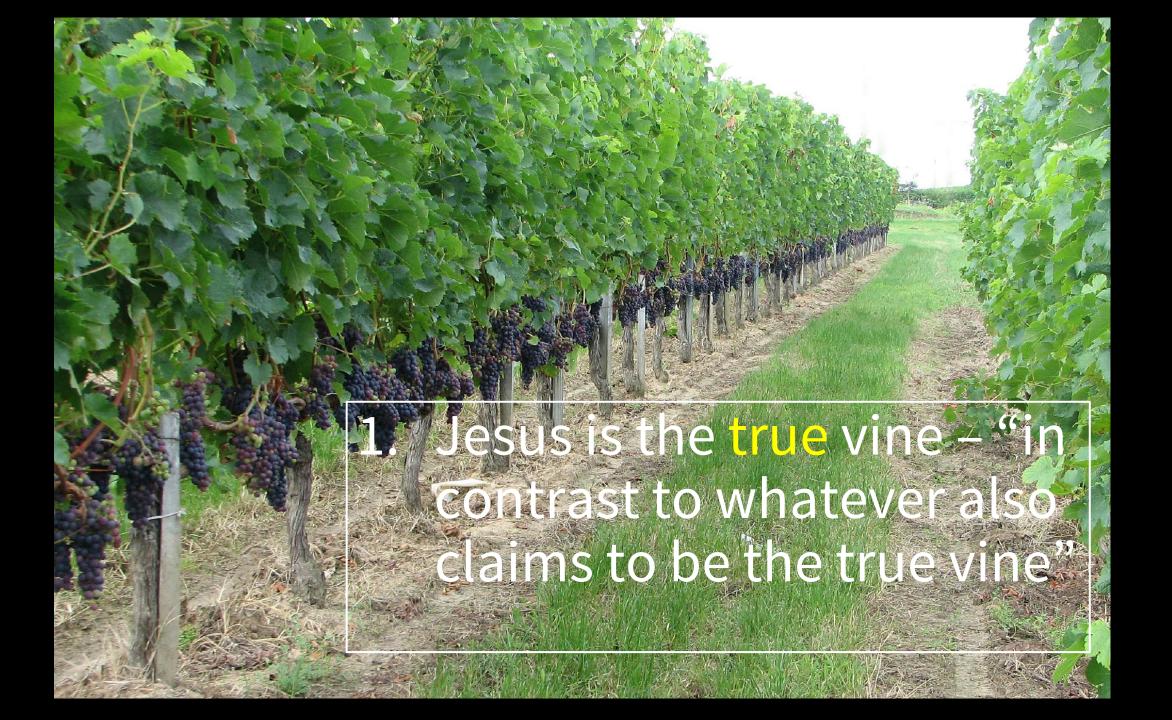
The "new normal" in the 1st century:

- A. God Gardener.
- B. Jesus Vine.
- C. Believers in Jesus Branches which bear the fruit.



1. JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE; GREEK WORD TRANSLATED "TRUE":

•- that which has not only the name and semblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name ... "particularly applied to express that which is all that it pretends to be, for instance, pure gold as opposed to adulterated metal" ..., a. as opposed to what is fictitious, counterfeit, imaginary, simulated, pretended; opposed to what is imperfect, defective, frail, uncertain.



•1 John 5:9-12 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for the witness of God is this, that He has borne witness concerning His Son. ¹⁰ The one who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His Son. 11 And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

2. GOD, THE FATHER, IS THE GARDENER.

- Master-gardener of my soul, heart, and life.
 - •V 15:2; takes away; prunes; lifts up; takes away.
 - Opens my eyes at the right time.
 - Convicts me of my dry soul
 - Tru-green lawn care of my soul.
- Phil 1:6, 2:12 13; Jer 29:11

3. BELIEVERS (IN JESUS) ARE THE BRANCHES THAT BEAR THE FRUIT.

- A. Branches (not vine) bears fruit. 15:16
- B. Connected to grow.
- C. Connected to bear fruit. 15:4. Matt 11:28-30;
- D. Apart from vine nothing. V 5
- E. Apart from vine dries up, taken away and burned. V 2, 6

• BRANCH IS NOT A SELF-CONTAINED UNIT.

- V4. Abide in me ... and I in you.
- •V5. He who abides in Me...
- V7. If you abide in me and my words abide in him ...
- Abide = stay, tarry, remain, connected.
 - Mary (not Martha), Zaccheus, disciples, Nicodemus, John in Revelation.

4. TO CONNECT, TO GROW, IS TO GLORIFY GOD.

- A. By this Father is glorified: v 8
 - 1. Abiding in him,
 - 2. Bearing fruit,
 - 3. Learning of Christ,
 - 4. Answers my prayers
 - 5. Prove to be disciples of His
- B. Loving others in obedience.

5. NEXT STEPS.

- 1. For the next 40 days will you intentionally focus on abiding in Christ?
 - A. If you are not spending time with Christ daily, read the gospel of John, daily (for the next 40 days).
 - B. If you are, focus your prayers on all of us to encounter Christ in our lives.
 - C. Use the "Grow Guide" to assist you.

5. NEXT STEPS

2. Give a witness to at least one person this next week about Christ.