

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 1<sup>st</sup> century:

A. God - Gardener.

B. Jesus – Vine.

C. Believers in Jesus – Branches which bear the fruit.



**Believers  
are the branches**

**Jesus is  
the Vine**

**God is the gardener**

# 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. Jesus is the **true** vine – “in contrast to whatever also claims to be the true vine”



- 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.**<sup>10</sup> 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.**<sup>11</sup> And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, **and this life is in His Son.**<sup>12</sup> **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.