

ALONG THE WAY: Week 1 – “The Way of the VINE”
Text: John 15
Date: March 5, 2023

OPENING PRAYER:

Have someone in the group invite the Holy Spirit into your presence. Pray for your encounter with God’s Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of applying this truth in our daily lives.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES:

~Safe Group	~Silence	~Sharing
~Confidentiality	~No Cross Talk	~Self-Aware
~Listen	~No Fixing	~”I” Statements
~Pause	~No Rescuing	~Handle Conflict Biblically

“GETTING TO KNOW YOU”:

Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question: When do you feel most connected to God?

INTRODUCTION:

We were taught about selfishness last week from Pastor Heather when she wrapped up the Red Flag series. This week, Pastor Heather, she will begin the series, “Along the Way- The Way of the Vine.”

THIS WEEK’S KEY SCRIPTURE: John 15

DISCUSSION:

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

1. Pastor Heather referred to scripture from Acts: ACTS 19:8-9

“Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way.”

Before it was called Christianity, followers of Jesus were called followers of THE WAY. Jesus lived a way that was about relationship.

- * How would you describe your personal following of Jesus?
- * Do you ever wonder if the way you are following THE WAY is correct?
- * What happens when you fall away from Jesus? How do you find your way back?
- * **THE WAY TO LIVE “NEAR” IS TO LIVE THE WAY JESUS LIVED...John 15:1**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Describe to each other how Jesus lived.

2. Pastor Heather's next focus was based on these passages- please read them out loud:

John 15:2, "He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

John 15:4-8, "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."

- * God wants us to REMAIN in him. Why don't we?
- * What do you do instead of REMAINING? Please have someone read aloud, "You can't make fruit without the vine. The vine is the source of the fruit. The vine supports the fruit not the other way around."
- * Do you believe you have to DO things to be in relationship with God? Are you capable of remaining? REMAIN. STAY. ENDURE.
- * When you endure anything in life does it make you stronger? When you endure and remain in God, do you believe it will make you stronger?
- * Please read the following:

John 15:9-11

"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.

REMAIN IN MY LOVE. AND YOU WILL HAVE JOY."

CLOSING PRAYER: Spend some time in prayer as a group. Pray for one another, for those that might be absent and for prayer requests.