

ALONG THE WAY: Week 2
“The Way of the Vine part 2”
Text: John 15
Date: March 12, 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: Which season do you prefer and why?

INTRODUCTION

We were taught about the way of “The Vine” last week from Pastor Heather when she opened up “Along the Way” series. This week, Pastor Heather will continue the series, “Along the Way- The Way of the Vine part 2.”

THIS WEEK’S KEY SCRIPTURE: John 15

DISCUSSION:

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

1. Pastor Heather said, “God actually created seasons. They were his idea.” She referred to two passages of scripture. **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” And also, **Genesis 8:22**, “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE EXISTS WITHIN A SEASON.

- * Every time we experience an external season, we have an invitation to experience an internal season. Some refer to them as “seasons of the soul”. Do you experience seasons within yourself as the external seasons change? Share with your group what one of those seasons is like for you.
- * There is a maturity with REMAINING and growing in strength with repeating each season. **SUMMER- SEASON OF ABUNDANCE AND LIGHT:** This season is easy, full of energy and is the most fun season. What is your internal summer season like? Do you soak up and enjoy every moment?

* Do you allow summer to prep you for winter? Do you create spiritual storage for the next seasons? "You'll need to remember in the dark what God told you in the light."

2. Pastor Heather's next focus was the season of FALL.

* FALL- SEASON OF LOSS AND TRANSITION: This season is when things seem to be getting harder- everything takes more effort. What is your internal fall season like? Do your emotions start to dull?

* Is this season the most difficult coming on the backside of summer for you? Do you try to get back to summer?

3. Pastor Heather's next focus was the season of WINTER.

* WINTER- SEASON OF ABSENCE AND DARKNESS: This season is when there can be discouragement, disinterest and even depression. What is your internal winter season like? Is this the most difficult season? Why?

* If fall is the pain of loss, winter is the pain of absence. What do you do when your "well" runs dry in your winter season? Do you have a mentor? Do you have support?

4. Pastor Heather's next focus was the season of SPRING.

* SPRING- SEASON OF FRESH AND NEW: This season is when we are relieved, restored and rejoicing. What is your internal spring season like? Does it feel like it's the most fulfilling?

* If winter is God's seeming absence, spring is when you see God's hand again. It's resurrection after a crucifixion. Do you feel a new depth in your spring season? Do you feel like you have new insights during this season?

* Read out loud- Psalm 1:1-3, "Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season."

SUMMER, FALL, WINTER, SPRING

-We cycle around again and again. MATURE people, REMAIN and let the seasons do their work on their soul...and then cycle with greater depth and wisdom each time.

* Do you surrender your soul to each season? "There is a rhythm to REMAINING."

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