

# ABIDE // Guest Speaker: Elita Friesen

## Group Guide

### John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 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. 5 "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. 6 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. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

### January 14, 2024

1. Read John 15:1-8.
  - What did God highlight for you from this passage?
  - What questions do you have?
2. Jesus calls himself the vine (v.1), he calls us the branches (v.5), and he calls God the Gardener/Vinedresser (v.1).
  - How does knowing that God has the role as the Vinedresser impact your understanding of this text?
3. On Sunday we learned that vinedressers plant grapevines in rocky, slopy soil. Have you ever experienced a time in your life when you felt like God had planted you in "rocky" soil? What did you learn about God during that time? Share your experience with the group.
4. We also learned that vinedressers prune grapevines for 3 primary reasons: they are injured, they are not bearing fruit, or they need to be able to bear more fruit in future seasons.
  - Have you ever sensed a time in your life when you felt you were being "pruned"?
  - Does knowing that God desires us to bear MUCH fruit (v.8) impact your understanding of the times he prunes us?
5. What does abiding in Christ in your current season of life look like for you? Is there a tangible way in which God is inviting you to abide in him on a deeper level in your everyday, ordinary life? If so, write it down and then pray. Pray that the words of Christ would become interior to your life and rhythms.

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### [LEADERS NOTES]

#### RESOURCES TO HELP YOU FOLLOW JESUS

- [centralheights.ca/followjesus](https://centralheights.ca/followjesus)

#### STORIES

- We love hearing how God moves in people's lives. If you or anyone in your group has a story and would be willing to share, we'd love to hear it and celebrate with you. You can share your story by emailing [stories@centralheights.ca](mailto:stories@centralheights.ca)

#### MESSAGE Video and Audio can be found at:

<https://www.centralheights.ca/currentseries>