

When Your Way Isn't Working Session 1: Diagnosing Disconnection

(Pages 3-8) John 15:1-5

Connect

If you haven't already, go around in your group and make introductions. Then, to get things started, discuss the following question:

- What is something you are currently doing that is causing you to feel tired, worn out, or discouraged?

Read and Watch

Read **John 15:1-5** as a group

If you haven't already, watch the video for this session (Session 1: Diagnosing Disconnection). As you watch, take notes on statements and concepts that stand out to you.

Discuss

Now discuss what you just watched by answering the following questions.

1. When have you tried hard to accomplish something but haven't succeeded? How did that make you feel? How did it affect your relationships, your job, or other aspects of your life?
2. How do you respond when someone tells you that he or she sees something in your life that might need changing? Why do you think you respond this way?
3. What would you say are some signs that a person may not be closely connected to Jesus? What are some behaviors you exhibit when you aren't staying close to the Lord?
4. When you have witnessed the truth of Jesus' words in John 15:5— "apart from me you can do nothing"? How did that reality make you feel?
5. Consider this statement from the teaching: "When your way isn't working, check your connection to the vine. You're the branch, and the branch's most important job is just to stay connected." How does this help explain what Jesus said in John 15:1-5?

Respond

Sometimes, we don't even realize that we're doing things our own way and not God's way. However, a good way to tell is when we are constantly worn out, frustrated, irritable, discouraged, or battling other negative feelings. Thankfully, when our way isn't working, all we need to do is acknowledge our need and turn to Jesus. So take a few minutes on your own to consider whether or not your way is working, and then answer the questions below.

- What spoke most to your heart from the video teaching and the Scripture reading?

- What is God stirring you to do as a result?

- How will this strengthen your connection to Jesus?

Pray

Praying for one another is one of the most important things you can do as a community. So use this prayer time wisely, and make it more than just a "closing prayer" to end your group experience. Be intentional about sharing your prayer requests, reviewing how God is answering your prayers, and praying for each other as a group. As you pray, ask God to show you where you might be doing things your own way and to teach you how to connect with him instead. Before you close your session, use the space below to write down any requests so that you and your group members can continue to pray about them in the week ahead.
