

When Your Way Isn't Working Session 5: Grafted and Growing

(Pages 83-88) John 15:1-5; Matthew 23:27-28

Connect

To get things started, discuss one of the following questions as a group:

- What is something that spoke to your heart in last week's personal study that you would like to share with the group?
- When things in your life get especially hard, what do you usually look to first for comfort or escape?

Read and Watch

Read **John 15:1-17** as a group

If you haven't already, watch the video for this session (Session 5: Grafted and Growing). 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. How have you witnessed the impact of "information overload"? In what ways do you think information overload has negatively affected your life and the lives of your loved ones?
2. Of the different imitation vines mentioned in the video—information, politics, romance, "me", success, wealth, entertainment, pleasure, and religion—which ones tend to most distract you from your connection with Jesus? Why do you think this is the case?
3. Which part of Jana Robey's story most impacted you? How does her love for Jesus move you to closely abide in him? How do you want the people in your life to remember you?
4. Consider this encouragement from the teaching: "The process of grafting helps us understand that connection is always possible. It's never too late to connect." How does this encourage you—regarding either your own life or the life of someone you love?
5. When have you allowed a trial in your life to draw closer to Jesus instead of away from him? How did that impact your life going forward?

Respond

Life often takes us by surprise with painful storms, and it's easy for us to seek out imitation vines to try to meet our needs. But thank the Lord, when we fall away, he can graft us back into the vine. But staying connected to Jesus, even in the hardest tests, is even better and produces beautiful fruit. Take a few minutes on your own to think about how you can draw closer to God in the midst of any storm you may be facing, 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

End your time by praying together as a group. As you pray, ask the Lord to reveal any imitation vines that you may be tempted to cling to and to help you abide only in him. Ask if anyone has prayer requests, and write those requests in the space below so you and your group members can continue to pray about them in the week ahead.
