

Small Group Notes: 30 August 2026

Theme: The Gardener

Warm up:

Do you enjoy gardening? Why?

Have you ever visited a garden that has taken your breath away with its beauty?

Reading: John 15: 1-4, 8-12

- What verse, or perhaps word, stood out in the text while you were reading?
- What does it mean to have God, your heavenly Father, as the Gardener in your life?
- Do you think Jesus uses the illustration of God as the Gardener in order to make the audience afraid, or as a warning to them of the cost of failure for a disciple, or to encourage them? What do you think?

Getting into the Bible reading:

- Verse 2: What are the two reasons for pruning mentioned here? What dead wood might need to be cut away in your personal life? In the life of your church? What healthy branch needs to be pruned in your life, the life of your church in order to ensure fruitfulness?
- Verse 3: What makes a Christ follower spiritually clean?
- Verse 8: Being fruitful as a disciple brings glory and honor to who? How?
- Verse 10: What does this command mean for you? For your church?
- Verse 11: What is the joy that Jesus refers to here?

Close with a time of prayer for each other.

Thought for the week:

What will you do this week, to show a fruitful life in action, for Jesus?

God bless
Tim