

Sermon Discussion Guide
"Transformation"
September 6, 2020

Opening/Introduction

1. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon this week?

Read John 15:1-2

2. What does God's role as "vinedresser" teach us about who is responsible for bearing fruit?
3. What is our responsibility in bearing fruit?
4. What does God pruning us reveal about his love and care for us? (cf. Proverbs 3:12)

Read John 12:24-28

5. In this mini-parable, what must happen to the seed in order for it to bear fruit? How does this apply to Jesus? How does this apply to us?
6. How does verse 25 fit with the metaphor of the dying seed or being pruned by God?
7. How does Jesus respond to the arrival of "the hour" of his suffering and death? What does that teach us about the times of pruning (or death/disorder) in our lives?

Read James 1:2-4

8. What does it mean to "count it all joy" when we experience trials? How is joy different than happiness?
9. What is the result of our trials, suffering, etc.? Why is that important to keep in mind when we're in the midst of them?

Application

10. How do you see God pruning you in your life right now? How can you embrace this time of potential growth?

Prayer

Share any praises, burdens, or concerns you have with the group. Spend time praying for one another. Continue to pray for each other throughout the week.