

RECAP

As you reflect on this past week, where have you seen God's invitation to trust him?

As a House Church specifically consider how might God be collectively inviting SAC to trust him more in Steve's transition?

IDEA 1

Brian's big idea from the sermon was even in the midst of disappointments *Life and joy come from our connection to the true vine.*

Where do you find life and joy in this season? Has this been difficult to maintain in the midst of disappointment?

What does a godly posture of joy offer you that general happiness can't?

IDEA 2

Together as a group read John 15:1-7.

Brian shared with us that there are three main ways to stay connected to the true vine in order to receive the fullness of joy: (1) Pruning (2) Obedience to God's commands (3) Loving one another the way Jesus did.

What is Jesus describing by using the metaphor of 'pruning' and how could it result in joy? Is there an event or a season in your life you went through a 'pruning' time?

How can someone prevent themselves from falling into a *mechanical* vs. an *organic* approach of obedience?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

John 15:1-7 and Brian's sermon showed us that by being connected to the true vine, we can expect the fullness of life and joy. With your House Church take a personal inventory by answering the following question and then discussing as a group:

What am I most connected to?

- **Where do I spend my time?**
- **Where do I spend my money?**
- **Where do I get my joy?**
- **What is always on my mind?**

APPLICATION

This next week as you consider the question of 'what am I most connected to?', explore how you have been uniquely wired to encounter and connect with God.

Examples: nature, contemplation, liturgy, serving others, activism, community, silence & solitude, hospitality, rest, celebration etc.

Dedicate a day and time this week where you can connect with God with your preferred practice. After doing so, journal what you sensed, felt, and received from your experience with God.