

## Series: Some Assembly Required

### Scripture and Background Information for January 10 - 16.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we'll be looking at **John 15:1-7**. In today's text, we talk about Jesus's last teaching session before his crucifixion. Jesus would leave his friends. Thus, He held the discourse with his disciples to prepare them for the new upcoming season.

#### **Background for John 15:1-7:**

Last week, Chris emphasized the importance of using our daily plannable time, as well as the current life-season, for our service toward God. As we look into God's word, John 15:1.7 offers the perfect text to prepare us for the new year.

In today's passage, we see Jesus compare himself with the true vine, while believers are the branches. The text talks about the purpose of believers; bearing fruit. To bear fruit, believers totally depend on Christ for bringing fruit. Apart from Christ, no fruit is possible. Jesus taught that every branch that does not bear fruit would be taken away.

- When walking through our text, talk about the main focus. What does the text want us to understand when it comes to our purpose and ministry here on earth? Count recurring words to get an idea of the text's major theme.

- Some terms are translated poorly. As discussed in the sermon, how can "He takes away" (verse 2) be translated more appropriately? If translated differently, what is Jesus emphasizing here?

- With all your results in mind, how does abiding in Christ look like? What steps can you take to fulfill your purpose here on earth? How can you, as a community group, work together accomplishing that purpose?

*Remember: Jesus is "painting" a picture to illustrate one point. He uses a picture from the culture, which was familiar to the disciples. Our demographic and historical differences might lead to a misunderstanding of the text. Jesus never wants to separate him from you. On the contrary, John 15:1-7 is a beautiful text of Jesus' provision for His people. May the text become a motivator to hold on to him and use our daily routine, as well as our season, to glorify His Name, especially for the coming year.*