

CROSSING THE STREET: FRUITFUL MISSION

Share any experiences that members of the group have had in crossing the street.

Read John 15:1-8

1. Jesus is using an analogy here that was a familiar symbol to his Jewish hearers. God had repeatedly used the vine as a symbol of His people in the Hebrew Scriptures (one example is Psalm 80:8-9). Yet it was often used in a negative sense (as in Isaiah 5:1-2,7 and Jeremiah 2:21). Jesus publicly taught about Israel being like a vineyard in the Parable of the Vineyard (Matthew 21:33-44).
2. In planting and growing a vineyard (a church), what parts do God, Jesus and we play?
3. 'Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.' What does it mean to remain/abide in Jesus? How do we remain/abide in Him each day?
4. Have another look over John 15:1-8 and note all the times "fruit" is mentioned. What "fruit" is this talking about? How can we produce "fruit that will last" (John 15:16)?
5. List some ways you as a Group can be more intentional about producing "fruit that will last".
6. Fruit may take many years to mature, yet we can become quite impatient in wanting the fruit to be produced more quickly. How might we as a group or church invest in producing mature fruit over time?
7. How might we invest in future generations, some who are yet to be born?
8. God plants. What does it mean to be connected not only to the vine but also with other branches?
9. God prunes. What is the purpose of pruning? What might this look like for us at CBC?
10. God provides. What resources has God provided for us here at CBC? How can we be good stewards of God's resources?

PRAY: That God will open up opportunities for us, individually, to be more fruitful as His disciples. That the church will have a greater emphasis on reaching people with the gospel.