

# SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE / JAN. 28



## TO APPLY, NOT REHASH, THE SERMON

We want to start 2024 by joining our church family in *21 Days of Prayer and Fasting (21 DOPF)*. This week's guide will alternate between discussion(💬) as a whole group and praying(🙏) together in smaller groups. We want to maximize our time in corporate prayer, so please limit the discussion to a maximum of about 5–7 minutes per question.

### Group Discussion and Prayer

- 💬 Share some stories of resolutions or goals you have made in the past or recently. How did they go? What did you learn about yourself or the process of change?
- 📖 Read John 15:1–8. How do you understand the metaphor of the vine and the branches as it applies to your own life? Discuss how abiding in Jesus impacts our daily actions, decisions, and overall spiritual growth.
- 🙏 *7 minutes.* Ask God to help each member of the group strengthen their communion with Jesus, the true vine. Pray for the grace to rest in his love and to recognize his presence in everyday life.
- 💬 In John 15, God is likened to a vinedresser who prunes the branches for fruitfulness. Discuss a time when you felt “pruned” or challenged in your faith, and how it led to personal growth or increased fruitfulness in your life.
- 🙏 *7 minutes.* Seek God's guidance in identifying areas of life that need pruning for spiritual growth. Pray for the courage and wisdom to embrace the changes and challenges that come with spiritual transformation.
- 💬 Pastor J.D. emphasized balancing rest in Jesus with active pursuit of him. Share how you maintain this balance in your spiritual life, detailing ways you find rest in him and the active steps you take for spiritual growth.
- 🙏 *7 minutes.* Pray for wisdom and discernment to effectively balance rest in Jesus with active pursuit of growth. Ask God to show you which habits you should pursue to deepen your relationship with him.
- 💬 In this week's portion of our *21 DOPF* guide, we are praying for the world. What do you want God to do in the world around you? How can we, as a small group, better support and engage in God's work in the world?
- 🙏 *7 minutes.* Ask God to strengthen faithful missionaries and open doors for his Word. Pray that God would open people's minds and hearts to his Word. Pray that we would have a desire and opportunities to share his love with those around us.

## PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

### Stay in your smaller groups for this portion:

- 🙏 *10 minutes.* Reflecting on this week's sermon, identify one area in your life where growth or change is most needed. Spend some time asking God to give you the desire, wisdom, and strength to pursue this.
- 🙏 *15 minutes.* Share your personal prayer requests. Who is the one person in your life that you want God to save—who is your “One”? Ask God to answer, trusting his wisdom and ability.