

## ***“Get Connected” Interactive Discussion Guide***

### ***This Week’s Core Virtue—Joy***

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

**John 15:10-11 (NIV)**

### **Option 1—Growth Group Study: John 15:1-17**

(Plan 30 minutes for your “study time” by focusing on the \* questions. If you need to fill out or add to your discussion, select other questions. However, be sure to leave time for “SERVICE” and prayer.)

#### **Open It**

1. What are the marks of a true friendship?
2. \*What do you do to maintain your friendships?

#### **Explore It**

3. How are Jesus and the Father related? ([15:1](#))
4. What is Jesus and who is the Father? ([15:1](#))
5. How does the gardener tend to the branches that bear fruit and the branches that do not? ([15:2](#))
6. What did Jesus say the branches must do in order to bear fruit? ([15:4](#))
7. Who are the branches? ([15:5](#))
8. What did Jesus say would happen to the branches that did not remain in Him? ([15:6](#))
9. What privilege was given to the branches that remained in the vine? ([15:7](#))
10. What would be demonstrated by the disciples’ bearing much fruit? ([15:8](#))
11. \*What did Jesus urge His disciples to do? ([15:9](#))
12. How were Jesus’ disciples to remain in His love? ([15:10](#))
13. Why did Jesus talk with His disciples about vines and branches? ([15:11](#))
14. What command did Jesus give His disciples? ([15:12](#))
15. \*What is the greatest manifestation of love? ([15:13](#))
16. Who did Jesus say were His friends? ([15:14](#))
17. \*Why did Jesus call His disciples friends? ([15:15](#))
18. Why did Jesus choose His disciples? ([15:16](#))
19. What was Jesus’ command? ([15:17](#))

#### **Get It**

20. How are we to remain in Jesus? Why?
21. What does it mean to bear fruit as a Christian?
22. How are we to bear fruit?
23. \*When is it difficult to develop and maintain a personal relationship with Jesus?
24. In what way has God been removing "dead" or useless pieces from your character?
25. In what way is your joy complete?
26. When do you struggle with loving others the way Jesus has loved you?
27. \*What kind of friend are you to Jesus?
28. Why is it hard to be Jesus’ friend?

#### **Apply It**

29. What steps can you take to develop a more intimate relationship with Christ?
30. \*How can you be a better friend to Jesus beginning today?

### **Option 2—Discussion of Sunday’s Sermon**

- What did you like?
- What did you not like?
- What did you not understand?
- How does it reinforce this week’s core commitment?
- What do you want to do in response?
- What do we want to do in response?
- What will you take away?

### **Option 3—Relate Your Study to Our Core Commitments**

- What Core Commitment(s) does our study reinforce?
- What can we learn from this passage about this week’s Core Commitments?
- How can we live this passage individually? As a group?
- What do we agree to do in response to this passage?