# Sunday 15th September – Connect Group Notes

## Pruning the Vine

**Read John 15:1-17**

1. **Personal Experience of Gardening and Pruning**  
   Jesus uses the metaphor of pruning in this passage. What has been your experience with gardening or pruning? How does it help you understand what Jesus is describing about our relationship with Him?
2. **Pruning the Disciples**  
   In verse 3, Jesus says the disciples are already “clean,” which is closely related to the word for “prune.” Can you think of examples from the Gospels where Jesus pruned the disciples’ lives—through teaching, instruction, correction, or rebuke? If time permits, explore some specific passages.
3. **The Positive Side of Pruning**  
   While pruning can feel like a process of cutting away what is bad or diseased, how can we also view it as a positive and necessary process? What is the purpose of this pruning, according to Jesus’ teaching?
4. **Personal Experience of God's Pruning**  
   Reflect on your own life. Can you identify times when the Father has pruned you—whether through a conscious decision you made or through life circumstances? How did it feel at the time, and what fruit or growth have you seen as a result?
5. **Distraction from Remaining in Jesus**  
   T.S. Eliot once said that we are “distracted from distraction by distraction.” How easily do we get distracted from Jesus’ call to “remain in me”? What specific distractions do you struggle with in your daily life? What can we do to remain more intentionally connected to Jesus?
6. **Pruning in the Life of Our Church**  
   Often, we think of pruning as an individual process. What would it look like to consider this passage in the context of our life together as a church? Are there areas where we, as a community, may need to be pruned to bear more fruit?
7. **Supporting Each Other Through Pruning**  
   How can we help one another through the process of pruning? In what ways can we as a group support each other, encourage growth, and stay connected to Jesus? Are there specific actions we could commit to as a group?
8. **Moving Forward**  
   As we reflect on this discussion, what is one key takeaway or action step you feel prompted to focus on personally or as a group? How can we hold each other accountable to live out these commitments in the coming weeks?