

Discussion Guide for the week of **NOVEMBER 13, 2011**

Sermon Topic: Some Last Words – John 15:1-8 – Matt Cassidy

Introduction: We are approaching the conclusion of our “All In” series. We have looked at various aspects of what Jesus would expect of us if we are serious about pursuing Him. Prior to His trials, sacrificial death and glorious resurrection, Jesus has some important last things to say to His devoted disciples. We will look at the first part of John 15 this week.

Study Questions:

- 1. Prior to this sermon how would you have answered the question, “How do you know you are a child of God?” What would you have said is the goal of your spiritual life?**
- 2. Read John 15:1-8. Describe Jesus’, the Father’s and our role in this passage. From verse 8, what is the goal of remaining properly dependent upon Jesus? How does Galatians 5:22-23b explain the kind of fruit a dependent life experiences? Why is it significant that Jesus says we are to bear fruit, more fruit and much fruit?**
- 3. We are created to be fruitful therefore our Father, as the vinedresser, disciplines us to keep us away from our natural tendencies and He prunes us of unnecessary things. Our sin needs to be disciplined because we don’t naturally do what would be healthy for us. Read Hebrews 12:7-11. What insights does this passage provide regarding God’s discipline of us? Read 2 Timothy 3:16. How does God use the Bible in this correction process?**
- 4. Our selfishness needs to be pruned because it is an unnecessary distraction to our fruitfulness. In John 15:2 why are we pruned? What are some selfish things that need to be pruned from your life?**
- 5. How have you seen God’s discipline in your life? How have you seen God prune you? What insights do you gain from this passage to get perspective on those experiences?**