

2. How do you make decisions about what to do next? How do you separate the urgent from the important?
3. If pruning helps keep a branch healthy, what does pruning mean for us? Why is it difficult to prune or be pruned?
4. What are some elements of our lives that prevent us from being more connected to God?
5. If we are the branches, we have the vine (God) on one side and the fruit we bear on the other. How do we balance those without losing sight of either one?

HANDS

1. Share one area that is hindering your regular connection with God (touching heaven). What can you do to improve it? How can others help you?
2. Share one area that is hindering your ability to bear fruit (changing earth). What can you do to improve it? How can others help you?
3. When you pray for others, what do you expect?
4. Consider a special activity involving a VINE this week. Spend time in a garden, prune some plants, visit a plant nursery, or drive by a vineyard. Thank God for connecting to us and enabling us to make a difference in the world. We are touching heaven and changing earth!

Notes and Thoughts



*Touching heaven, changing earth
with head, heart and hands*

March 22, 2015
Scripture Lesson: John 15:1-8

We offer these questions for reflection during the service or during your week. Ponder them yourself or share them with friends. Many small groups use these guides; if you would like to participate in a group, visit www.laumc.org/growinfaith and click on the "Find a Group" button.

Lenten Study: The God We Can Know **Week 4 – The True Vine**

HEAD

1. The word "abide" appears several times in John 15. What does "abide" mean?
2. Discuss the elements of the vine metaphor—what does the vine represent? The branches? The fruit? Reflect on how they interact and require each other.
3. What constitutes "quality time"? How do you make a period of time "quality time"?
4. Is it possible to be surrounded by symbols and reminders of Christian faith and still feel disconnected from God? Where does the disconnect originate? [from syllabus]

HEART

1. What people in your life are most important to you? How do you make time for them?

