



**Connect Group Coordinator
Breakout Session
August 10, 2025
Kevin Burdette, speaker**

The Vine and the Branches - John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

4 "Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

5-8 "I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

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"I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

4 "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

5-8 "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

— The Message

Key is in verse 8 – How is God glorified? _____

What do we know about Groups/Leadership at GABC:

- Groups will not cry together until they laugh together
- People will go deeper in discipleship when relationships run deep
- They want to engage in their local community
- People don't know their spiritual gifts
- People often don't see their community engagement as ministry
- They want to ministry with a purpose

Key Points in leading connect groups:

- Understand your Group may not operate like any other Group
- Pray with other leaders in your Group, to discover what might work, how you can work together and discover God's plans
- You may have successes and failures - that is OK
- Allow ideas and input from Group members, Give them ownership, Engage them
- Different generations will engage differently
- Get to know your people and understand their world
- Plan ahead
- Understand if someone says "no" could mean "not now"
- Encourage people to use their personal life experiences to minister to others
- Discover ways to use professional and business experiences in ministry
- Consider joining with other Connect Groups on ministry projects
- Choose events that involve the entire family
- Consider multi-event ministry projects
- Allow other members in charge of activities

Leaders/Coordinators must work as a team:

- Work with your fellow coordinators on how all coordinators can work on the same project - Learn to coordinate events by working together. (prayer, planning, executing, evaluate, responding, etc.)
- Plan ahead
- Plan things that are "easy wins" with growing impact

GABC INFO FOR GROUP LEADERS:

- How to look for future leaders in your CG
 - Pray that God will prepare other – and to show you who they are
 - Ask individuals to help
 - Watch their interest level (you have an idea; you have a job)
 - Look for skills needed for the position
- Connect Group Teacher & Substitute Requirements
 - Member of GABC 6 months
 - Actively engaged in Connect Group of at least 6 months
 - Application for Teachers and Substitutes
 - Other Connect Group Teachers might be available as a substitute
- Importance of accurate & timely Connect Group attendance records
 - For follow up calls, visits, records
 - Helps us be more effective in communication with people
 - Place weekly attendance records in the return “box”
- GABC Safety Team -
 - Here to help; Medical & Security issues
 - Yellow Name Tags
 - Training & Licensed
 - On campus M-F 8-5; Wed evenings & Sunday AM & PM
 - Children’s Ministry new check-in & security measures
 - Location of AED’s around GABC’s Tyler Campus
- MISC.
 - Start/stop class on time
 - Curriculum – teach what is scheduled (or with approved exceptions)
 - Materials are ordered based on requests and attendance records

Know Your People and Generations:

- **The Greatest Generation: 1901-1927**
 - Known for their resilience during the Great Depression and World War II. They are often celebrated for their strong work ethic and sense of duty.
- **The Silent Generation: 1928-1945**
 - Characterized by their cautious and conformist nature, this generation grew up during the post-war era and is often associated with traditional values and a focus on family stability.
- **Baby Boomers: 1946-1964**
 - This generation experienced significant social change and economic prosperity. They are often associated with the counterculture of the 1960s and the rise of consumerism.
- **Generation X: 1965-1980**
 - Known for their independence and skepticism, Gen Xers grew up during a time of shifting societal values and are often seen as the bridge between analog and digital technology.
- **Millennials (Generation Y): 1981-1996**
 - This generation is marked by their comfort with technology and social media. They are often described as collaborative and value-driven, facing challenges like economic instability and climate change.
- **Generation Z: 1997-2012**
 - The first generation to grow up with the internet and smartphones, Gen Z is known for their activism and awareness of social issues, as well as their reliance on digital communication.
- **Generation Alpha: 2013-2025**
 - This emerging generation is characterized by their exposure to technology from a very young age. They are expected to be the most technologically immersed generation yet, with a focus on innovation and global connectivity.
- **Generation Beta: 2025-2039**
 - They'll likely be tech-savvy and socially conscious, similar to Generation Alpha, and they might prioritize adaptability, individuality, and sustainability. Unlike past generations, artificial intelligence (AI) and digital connectivity will likely be woven into their daily lives.

Adult Discipleship & Ministry Team Staff

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult Discipleship
Jason Humphrey, Adult Discipleship Pastor
Cathryn Johnson, Admin Asst
Sarah Pino, New Member Coordinator | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior Adults
Kevin Burdette, Senior Adults/Pastoral Care
Ken Brumley, Congregational Care Minister
Sherry Moses, Admin Asst
Christ Carter, Admin Asst |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women's Ministry
Debbie Stuart, Women's Minister
Taylor Gibson, Women's Ministry Assoc
Mimi Youngblood, Admin Asst | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• College, Young Adults, Single Adults
Cassie Hopkins, Adult Admin Asst |