

## 1. "Tree of Life"

<sup>8</sup> Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. <sup>9</sup> The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil....<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." - Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17(NIV)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes<sup>[a]</sup> so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me... <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. -John 15:1-4,8 (NIV)

- 1. Watch the video from The Bible Project "Tree of Life". How did this video alter or expand your view of the tree of life or trees in general in the Bible.
- 2. Read Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17. Some see the tree of the knowledge of good and evil as a simple test of resisting a temptation. Is there a deeper way to understand the choice that Adam & Eve made in the garden? How might this same choice be relevant for us today?
- 3. Read John 15:1-4, 8. How do you see Jesus' metaphor of himself as the "true vine" fitting into this tree of life narrative? How might this affect how you see yourself and the calling God has placed in your life?