

Exodus 5 / John 15 — Small Group Discussion Questions

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1. Greg opened with the instinct that struggle means something has gone wrong. Where in your own life right now are you tempted to read difficulty as a sign of failure? What would it look like to consider that it might be part of a plan instead?
2. The Israelite foremen called themselves "your servants" — reverting to slave identity under pressure. When life gets hard, what old identities or old coping patterns do you find yourself reverting to?
3. Moses didn't argue with the people or defend himself — he took their pain and his own directly to God in honest prayer. How honest are you with God when you're in the middle of a crisis? What makes it hard to pray like Moses did?
4. There's a difference between a vandal and a vinedresser — both cut the branch, but the intent is completely different. Think of a difficult season in your past that you can now see more clearly. Looking back, does it look more like a vandal's damage or a vinedresser's work? What helped you tell the difference?
5. Greg asked us to consider pruning at two levels — communally (Bill C9 and the Canadian church), and personally. Pick one of those two. What would it look like to trust the Vinedresser in that specific situation this week — not to understand it, but to trust him through it?